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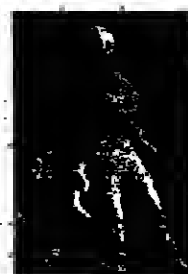
VOLUME LXVII, NUMBER 20121 SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1999 • TEVET 5759 • 16 RAMADAN 1419 NIS 5.50 (EILAT NIS 4.70)



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Protesting house demolition
IDF soldiers drag away a woman activist of the Israel Coalition Against Home Demolitions yesterday, as Israelis and Palestinians tried to enter Kfar Hareth to rebuild the Abu Yakoub home. Story, Page 3.

Lieberman to launch another immigrant list

By DANNA HARMAN and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A new party joins the election race today - Avigdor Lieberman's "Yisrael Beiteinu" (Israel is our Home) - a right-wing, secular, immigrants' party with a social bent and a motto of "every man is king."

Lieberman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's former

Leah Rabin: Shahak should join Barak, Page 3

director-general, has called a press conference for 11 this morning to announce the establishment of this party and explain its principles. His party is expected to compete with Yisrael Ba'Aliya for the votes of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

At the offices of Yisrael Ba'Aliya, spokesman Roman Polansky welcomed the new party by saying, "every citizen in a democratic country has the right to put his self



Avigdor Lieberman (Gideon Markovitz)

of himself up for elections."

Senior officials at Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'Aliya - which has seven seats in the Knesset - were less enthusiastic.

"In 1996 Sharansky released the immigrants from their dependence on the big parties and gave them an independent alternative," said one official. "What Lieberman is trying

To do is turn the wheel back. His party is nothing but a s of the Likud."

A spokesman at Lieberman's office responded that while a "coordination" between Lieberman and his former boss, Netanyahu, is completely independent, Sharansky reportedly tried to dissuade Lieberman from running on a separate channel. Sharansky is considering his allegiance and support to a centrist party, or even Lab Lieberman, once Netanyahu's right-hand man and co-intends to present what is called an "aggressive, military establishment" platform on institutions such as the income tax, and bureaucracy.

Lieberman was quoted saying that he would demand internal security and justice as a condition for joining governing coalition. "to me, once and for all in the State Attorney's Office."

See LIEBERMAN, F

Hizbullah warns PM not to attack Lebanon

By DANNA HARMAN, MARGOT DUKKEVITCH, and news agencies

Hizbullah warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday against trying to boost his popularity before the elections by attacking Lebanon, saying the country has been the "graveyard" of many an Israeli government.

"We warn Binyamin Netanyahu against using the south Lebanon card for electoral gains," Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, told Reuters in Beirut. "The lives of people of the South should not become votes to stuff the ballot boxes."

"We want to remind Netanyahu that Lebanon was the graveyard of many Israeli governments and that betting on Lebanon to win the elections will backfire," he said, alluding to Operation Grapes of Wrath, which was launched under former prime minister Shimon Peres shortly before he lost the 1996 elections. Nasrallah spoke a day after Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Shaul Mofaz revealed that IDF troops had caused the death of a Hizbullah explosives expert last Tuesday northwest of Baalbek.

According to the IDF Spokesman, Mofaz identified the expert as Ahmed Mehdi. Mofaz refused to divulge further details.

Nasrallah said Mehdi had died when a roadside bomb he was dis-

mantling exploded.

"It is not true that he was a target of the bombing... It might have exploded with anybody," Nasrallah said, adding he did not know if the bomb was planted by Israeli commandos or Lebanese collaborators.

Nasrallah accused the IDF of claiming responsibility for the death to raise morale.

Netanyahu had on Friday reiterated a security cabinet decision of the previous night that Israel would retaliate for attacks launched against northern settlements from Lebanon.

"I don't know of any way to prevent terror strikes without hitting back. No country can refrain from responding if its residents come under rocket fire," he said. "And, of course, we maintain the right to respond to other forms of attack on our forces."

Netanyahu denied reports that Thursday's decision was an outright dismissal of the withdrawal option.

"This [a redeployment] is an option we always maintain, but it will be taken only on condition that we have security on the northern border," said Netanyahu, while touring northern settlements.

Nasrallah said such threats would not spare Israel or halt Hizbullah's war of attrition against the occupation.

"Words won't do them any good, they must take action. They must withdraw unconditionally and if they really want to avoid the

Katyushas, they should not attack civilians," Nasrallah said.

While briefing military reporters on Friday, Mofaz said that 1998 had seen a sharp increase in Hizbullah activity, and that the IDF is focusing efforts on degrading Hizbullah's capability to strike at the IDF in Lebanon.

Mofaz stressed that the security cabinet had adopted the IDF's position to strike at "targets inside Lebanon."

"We proposed various objectives and I believe they fall within the framework of the cabinet decision," Mofaz said. He declined to elaborate.

"I don't want to describe how we will react," Mofaz said, adding that the Grapes of Wrath understandings, which forbid targeting civilians, are still binding.

He also denied reports the IDF had proposed damaging Lebanese infrastructure, such as power stations.

Regarding the debate over whether the IDF should remain in Lebanon, Mofaz said that, in his opinion, attacks against the IDF would not come to a halt after a unilateral pullout. He said that such a withdrawal would reduce the level of security without guaranteeing there would be fewer casualties.

Mofaz also said that "the security zone was never set up to stop Katyushas, but to prevent the infiltration of settlements by land."

The question could become an issue next week, when Miami businessman Dr. Irving Moskowitz - who owns the site and is pushing for its development - arrives with a group of wealthy right-wing donors, as first reported in the Post on Friday.

Moskowitz is trying to set up meetings between his group and Netanyahu as well as other top MKs of the so-called "national camp" to determine who the group will financially support in the upcoming elections.

See ATHERET, Page 2

Ateret Cohanim threatens challenge over Ras al-Amud

By ELLI WOHLGELERINTER

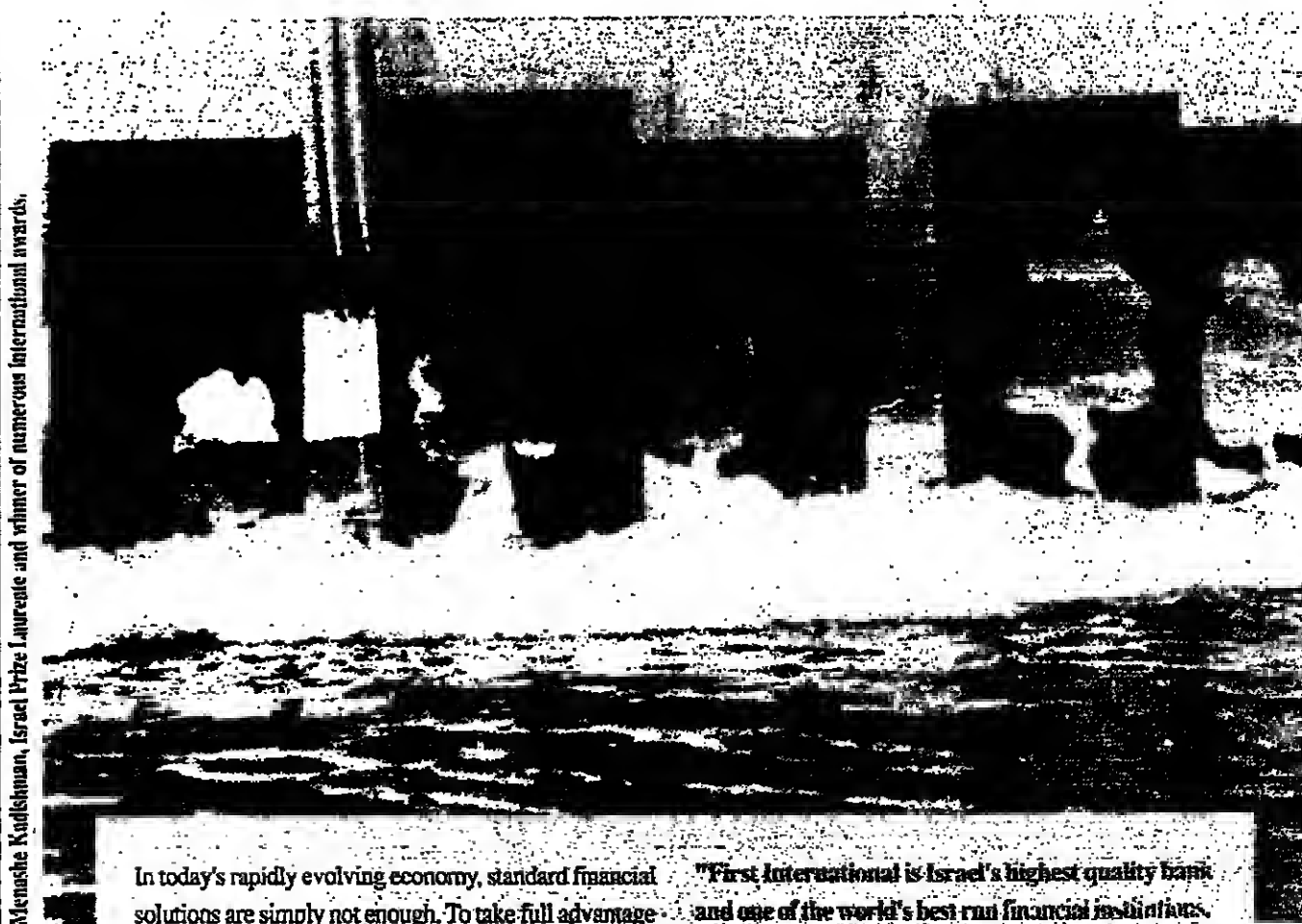
The Ateret Cohanim organization is threatening to appeal to the High Court of Justice if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tries to prevent the start of construction at the controversial Ras al-Amud site in Jerusalem, a source with the organization told The Jerusalem Post last night.

Building at the site is expected to start this month. The source said that if the government prevents construction, by claiming that the work would do harm to national security, "So we'll say in court that the government is trying to reward rioters."

"We don't riot when the Arabs build illegally, and they riot against us even when we build legally, and therefore it's going to reward them with stopping our building. That's the logic here that won't stand up

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NEWS

in brief

Explosive device discovered in south Lebanon

A South Lebanese Army patrol discovered a large explosive device in the eastern sector of south Lebanon near Sujoud yesterday. The patrol called in sappers to defuse the device, but it detonated just as they arrived. No injuries were reported, Israeli Radio reported.

Margot Dukkevitch

Amor to be envoy in Belgium

Likud MK Shaul Amor is slated to be the next ambassador to Belgium, Israeli Radio reported last night. The radio said Amor, who was a candidate for president, might also be appointed a minister for a few months until he takes up his post in Brussels.

Jerusalem Post Staff

US Embassy to reopen tomorrow

The US Embassy in Tel Aviv is due to reopen tomorrow after being closed on Thursday following a bomb threat.

The closure of the embassy came in response to a warning about a possible attack on the compound relayed from the State Department in Washington and not because of a threat delivered locally, an Israeli security source said Friday.

A State Department spokeswoman said she could provide no further information on the nature of the threat that led to the embassy's closing.

AP

Firebombs thrown at Ras al-Amud police

Palestinian assailants threw two firebombs at the police station near Ras al-Amud early Friday morning. They exploded, but caused no injuries or damage.

Palestinians strongly object to the Jewish housing under construction at the site in eastern Jerusalem.

Itim

Moslem worshipers' cars vandalized

The tires on a dozen cars were slashed, their windows shattered, and bodywork damaged while their owners were praying at the Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount on Friday. The motorists blamed students at the Beit Orat Yeshiva, which is next to the lot where the cars were parked.

Border policemen arrived at the scene to investigate, and had separate yeshiva students and motorists after they began throwing stones at each other. The yeshiva students accused the motorists of parking in their lot and blocking access to the institution.

Police are also investigating the slashing of tires on 14 Arab cars in the Wadi Joz section Friday night.

Itim

,000 fowl killed in Carmel flood

Culinary farmers, banana, tomato, and pepper growers appear to have the hardest hit of farmers in the Carmel area from Thursday's floods, a government assessor said yesterday.

David Ginzburg, director of a government fund that compensates farmers for natural disasters, said that about 30,000 turkeys and chickens were killed, many of them in mudslides.

Jerusalem Post Staff

10 killed in road accidents last week

Ten persons died in some of the 716 road accidents reported last week. Another 982 people were injured, 12 of them seriously.

A Rishon LeZion, a woman bicycle rider was killed Friday on a car hit her on Rehov Negba. A Magen David Adom doctor pronounced her dead at the scene, after an unsuccessful attempt to revive her.

Itim

Yemeni president meets with Khaled Mashaal

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh yesterday received Khaled Mashaal, head of the Hamas political department, according to the official Yemeni news agency in Sanaa. The two discussed "Palestinian developments in light of the obstacles faced by Israel in the peace process," it said.

Salah reiterated Yemen's support for the Palestinians' struggle for their legitimate rights and the establishment of an independent state with its capital in Jerusalem.

Mashaal's visit was four days after three Britons and an Australian were killed when Yemeni security forces raided a hideout where Islamic militant kidnappers were holding a party of foreign tourists.

Itim and news agencies

Bin Laden says Jews target of holy war

Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, accused of masterminding the bombing of two US embassies in Africa, says Moslems had responded to his call for a holy war against Americans and Jews, Time magazine reported yesterday.

When asked if he was responsible for the bomb attacks on the embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, bin Laden said: "Our job is to instigate and, by the grace of God, we did that, and certain people responded to this instigation," he said in the interview that Time said was conducted at an encampment in the Afghan desert.

Reuters

Newborn found in a doorway

A several-day-old baby girl was found abandoned last night, wrapped in a blanket in the doorway of an apartment in Jerusalem's Shuafat neighborhood, police said. She was taken to Hadassah University Hospital, Mount Scopus, while police search for the mother.

Amy Klein

English news on Reshet Bet

Israel Radio's English news will start broadcasting on Reshet Bet at 2:30 a.m. tomorrow. The radio said the four-minute news summary will be heard locally. It is also aimed at reaching an American audience at prime time. The English news currently broadcasts on Reshet Aleph, Reka, the Russian-language station, and shortwave.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Who's smearing Uzi Arad?

By DANNIA HARMAN

Is someone spreading damaging information about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's special advisor Uzi Arad? That is the question being asked in the corridors of the Prime Minister's Office.

Two events involving Arad last week — one having to do with his supposed failure to inform the Foreign Ministry of top-level official meetings in London

(Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon wrote a private letter to Netanyahu complaining), and the other pertaining to his supposed appointment as coordinator of the Israel-Palestinian steering committee (Sharon's office said this was "completely untrue") — both turned out to be minor misunderstandings, blown out of proportion by leaks to the press.

After a short investigation, it transpired that — in the first instance — Arad had coordinated

his London meetings with the Foreign Ministry and that — in the second — there was never any intention to appoint him as head of the steering committee, but rather as the internal coordinator within the Prime Minister's Office. The new head of the committee to conduct negotiations with the Palestinians is, as announced,



Uzi Arad
(Ariel Jerolimski)

Sharon's senior aide, Tomer Orni. "There is obviously someone in the Foreign Ministry that is not interested in the facts but rather in heating up the atmosphere between the offices," said a senior source at the Prime Minister's Office. "Someone is interested in creating the impression that there are problems with

Arad's mandate and behavior." Sharon's office, in response, said that the foreign ministry has no interest whatsoever in a conflict with Arad.

The position of steering committee head has been left open since cabinet secretary Dan Naveh resigned last month to run for a place on the Likud list for Knesset.

Up until the resignation, Orni served as Naveh's deputy on the committee.

PM, Mofaz defend commander in 'friendly fire' incident

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday came to the defense of Sec. Lt. Assaf Lapid, condemning the "friendly fire" incident in which he was killed in a "friendly fire" incident in south Lebanon last Tuesday.

"This was a terrible tragedy," Netanyahu told reporters during a tour of the North. "We lost a precious soldier, but this shouldn't be turned into a public trial. It is right to judge [Lapid] in such public way. It is difficult to fight against terrorists and to move night in a dangerous area with 10 percent assurance that nothing will go wrong."

Netanyahu acknowledged the incident was a "very serious lapse," but said he gives his full support to the soldiers and officers "doing the important work in the North... I suggest we don't provide a legal advisor to every unit commander, otherwise we won't have an IDF at all," he added.

In a briefing for reporters on Friday, Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz also discussed the accusations directed toward Lapid, after first paying a condolence visit to Zach's family in Nofit. "I found a wonderful family and I am sure that their son was also," he said.

Mofaz said Zach's death was regrettable and promised the army would not whitewash the findings of the inquiry. Wishing the wounded a speedy recovery, Mofaz said the tragic incident was a cause of great personal pain, not only because of Zach's death, but also what was done to the unit commander.

"My heart goes out to the Zach family and also the Lapid family," he said. "We prepare the unit commanders, we give them ranks and send them to carry out missions. Lapid didn't choose the mission we sent him on. I am their commander and I give them my full support."

There is no guarantee that mishaps will not occur, he said, adding that great effort is made to prevent them. Mofaz said he believes the statements made by Brig. Gen. Efiy (Fein) Etan were premature and could have been more carefully chosen, but stressed that Etan had no intention of hurting Lapid and had acted out of a sense of responsibility.

Dannia Harman contributed to this report.



Wounded soldier goes on line

Soldier Alexey Yermenko, 19, who lost both legs in a Hizbullah bombing in Lebanon in November, receives a laptop computer Friday at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer from Haim Chesler, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department. Various donors helped meet Yermenko's wish to be in contact with friends in Israel and around the world. His e-mail address is: alexey@netvision.net.il

(Israel Sam)

Aroub bypass work expected to begin soon

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Work on the Aroub bypass road should start within two weeks, according to Eli Cohen of the Defense Ministry's settlements division. Touring Judea and Samaria to discuss the building of bypass roads, Cohen told reporters in Gush Etzion on Friday he had not heard a statement made some months ago by Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz that the building of the Aroub bypass road would lead to the spilling of blood.

The Aroub bypass has always been top priority among 20 bypass roads considered important not only for security reasons, but also to improve travel safety for both Jewish and

Palestinian residents, he said. Construction has been held up because a large portion of the road runs through vineyards which must be expropriated, and this has been challenged in the courts by Palestinian landowners. Hopefully the issue will be resolved and construction will begin, Cohen said.

A similar problem was confronted on a section of the Halhoul bypass road near Hebron, noted Cohen, adding that today both Palestinians and Jews travel along it. Certain bypass roads are obviously designed to protect Jewish settlers by enabling them to avoid Palestinian villages and towns, he said.

Work has already begun on 14 of the 20 bypass roads, he said, and NIS 278 million have

been allocated for construction, with NIS 100m. already transferred to the Defense Ministry for planning. The rest of the funds are to be allocated to the Ministry of Infrastructure, who is responsible for implementing the work.

Cohen also cited the example of the eastern Jerusalem ring road, which enables Palestinians to travel from Bethlehem to Ramallah. A portion of the road from the Ayot Junction was easy to build and solved the security problem faced by settlers in the area, he said.

Cohen said the Palestinian Authority is aware of the situation but remains in the background. However, he hinted he had heard reports that the PA is also planning to construct bypass roads, but was unable to give any details.

Thousands mark Fatah Day

Thousands of Palestinians, some masked and firing rifles in the air to celebrate, rallied in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday and vowed to push for statehood.

The rallies in Bethlehem and Gaza City were held to mark the 34th anniversary of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, which controls both the PLO and the Palestinian

Authority.

In Gaza, about 4,000 Fatah members rallied. A series of speakers denounced Israel for suspending the Wye River accords.

"Our battle is a battle of peace, and our hand is extended in peace," said Ahmed Hilas, the Fatah secretary in Gaza.

"Arafat launched Fatah Day cel-

ebrations Thursday with a speech urging Palestinians to back the PA so that it "will be the kernel of our independent state." In Bethlehem yesterday, marchers in black masks and camouflage fatigues marched through the center of town. Some fired celebratory shots into the air with rifles and pistols.

On Friday, PA deputy minister

for Islamic affairs Yousef Salamah delivered a Ramadan sermon to 300,000 worshippers at al-Aksa mosque, terming the US and Britain "enemies of God and Islam" for bombing Iraq. The sermon appeared to contradict PA policy of stifling attacks on the US since President Bill Clinton's visit last month.

(AP)

ATERET

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu's director of communications, David Bar-Ilan, said last night that if Netanyahu decides to halt construction, a challenge in court would be inconsequential.

Bar-Ilan said Netanyahu had not yet decided whether he would take the position he took in September 1997, when he halted the project to construct 132 homes for Jews and 500 apartments for Arabs, after riots by Palestinians who believed the new Jewish neighborhood was being designed to block access

from Arab suburbs to the Old City. "Circumstances change," Bar-Ilan said. "If he decides that they have changed, then he'll make a different decision."

Ateret Cohanim, which manages the Ras al-Amud property on the Mount of Olives, initially petitioned the High Court in 1997, but

withdrew the petition at Netanyahu's request.

"He cannot lose in court, because a prime minister has the right to stop anything if he feels it is a danger to public safety," Bar-Ilan said.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein told the Post last night

that "If Bibi tries to stop them and they go to the High Court and get permission, then it will be a real slap in the face." He said that Netanyahu can't raise the point of national security on every issue, because "you can't live your life by this famous phrase — 'if we do so and so there'll be a riot.'"

LIEBERMAN

Continued from Page 1

Sharansky, apparently afraid of losing seats in the elections, reportedly put pressure on Netanyahu to dissuade Lieberman from establishing a new party, Sharansky threatened he would not recommend that Russian voters support Netanyahu as prime minister this time, and that he would even tell them to vote for Labor Party leader Ehud Barak or any candidate they want.

But Netanyahu's efforts to persuade Lieberman to stay in the Likud failed.

Meanwhile, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, the former chief of General Staff, is expected to announce on Tuesday or Wednesday, assuming that the Knesset passes the early elections bill into law tomorrow, that he is running for prime minister at the head of a new center party.

Shahak would be expected then to unveil his leading team, which is to consist of prominent defectors from both Labor and the Likud.

However, Shahak and MK Dan

Meridor, both of whom are forming a center party, have failed to agree on which of them would run for prime minister.

The two met in Shahak's Re'ut home Friday and again last night, but did not resolve their differences. Shahak is reportedly in favor of announcing the candidate for prime minister right away, while Meridor wants to wait, in the hope that Shahak's popularity will wane.

Former Tel Aviv mayor Ronni Milo, who hopes for a leadership position in the new center party, yesterday threatened that unless Shahak and Meridor decide in the next few days which of them will run, then he would run for prime minister.

Milo fears that Shahak and Meridor will miss some momentum if they postpone their decision, and that he, who registered his center Ait party six months ago, would be pushed aside.

Milo presumably would prefer for Meridor to step aside and let Shahak be the candidate for prime minister.

Barak is launching his election campaign with a two-day trip to northern border settlements this morning, under the slogan "Ehud

Barak for Everyone." Barak's contacts with Geshet Leader David Levy, aimed at having Levy join Barak's Israel One movement, are continuing "slowly but surely," sources close to Barak said yesterday.

But the talks with Levy were being held with a lower profile following criticism from some Labor members who fear for their Knesset seats.

MK Nissim Zivili of Labor, who is considering joining the center party, said yesterday he had no confidence in Barak.

"After 40 years in Labor, I find myself close to resigning because of one man. I don't believe in the

ability of the man heading the party to win the elections and I'm not sure of his ability to lead the state," Zivili said.

He said Barak had displayed political conduct similar to Netanyahu's and charged that Barak had a Machiavellian trait — an attitude that the end justifies the means. Zivili also accused Barak of taking an instrumental approach to people.

About the move to add Levy to Barak's list, Zivili said that "he's sacrificing the party to make sure he is elected. He has an obsession to be prime minister. I don't want to be in a party where after every critical remark they send the rot-

weiler on duty after you. I won't stay in a one-man party."

Barak's media adviser Aliza Goren commented on Zivili's remarks: "Zivili has already excluded himself from the company of Labor's senior members and has been acting as internal opposition for some time, running to the press with critical remarks before expressing them within the party."

It's regrettable Zivili hasn't learned his lesson and is continuing to do what he did before to Peres and other party seniors. We wish him success in his wish to be appointed Israel's ambassador in Paris," she said.

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BLIMA (Blanche) 57
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The Family

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Indian summer
Bathers enjoy a balmy Shabbat at Tel Aviv's Sheraton Beach.

(Brian Handberg)

IDF turns away Israeli group seeking to rebuild demolished homes

By BEN LYNNFIELD

The IDF yesterday barred about 100 Israelis from entering Kifl Harith village, across from Ariel, to rebuild houses that were demolished last Monday by the Civil Administration.

The army also prevented some 50 Palestinians from the Palestinian Authority, Fatah and other groups from entering the village in a show of support for the owners of one partially wrecked house and one fully demolished house, according to Ali Saleh, head of the village council.

The IDF Spokesman's office said that entry was prohibited to activists from the Israel Coalition against Home Demolitions because Kifl Harith had been declared a closed military zone Friday "for security reasons."

A smaller group of Israelis was turned away Friday.

The IDF Spokesman said that yesterday's encounters with the demonstrators went quietly. But news agency pictures showed a protester being dragged away by soldiers after she tried to enter the village.

A Palestinian youth could also be seen throwing stones at soldiers, but the IDF Spokesman had no information about the incident. According to Arik Asherman, a

leader of the Israel Coalition Against Home Demolitions, the IDF permitted a delegation of 10 of the Israeli activists to enter the village.

They gave villagers NIS 2,000 towards rebuilding the homes, he said.

The houses, belonging to the Shukur and Qadoura families, were demolished for not having permits.

The Civil Administration says that the demolitions are undertaken to enforce the law. While it has retroactively approved illegal structures in areas where there are official building plans, the Civil Administration, as a matter of policy, does not give permits in villages lacking such plans, according to Peter Lerner, the Civil Administration spokesman.

Palestinians in Kifl Harith maintain that since the Civil Administration invariably refuses them permits, they have no choice but to build illegally.

Saleh, the head of the village council, said last night he was pleased by the Israeli activists' visit. "There is a Palestinian saying: The fingers on the hand aren't all the same. Some are long, some are short. Some Jews are thinking about peace, some aren't. Some want to live peacefully and others want to transfer us. We know that not all Jews are the same."

Leah Rabin: Shahak should join Barak

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Leah Rabin, the widow of assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, says former chief of General Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak must join Labor Party leader Ehud Barak as his no. 2 in the coming elections and estimated that her late husband would have approved the ticket.

Rabin's voice buttressed pressure on Shahak from Labor and other sources to join Barak and not split the center and Left.

Rabin, who spoke on Channel 1's Shabbat Game yesterday, urged former prime minister

Shimon Peres to support Barak as the opposition's elected leader.

"Barak and Shahak both see themselves continuing Yitzhak Rabin's heritage. The two of them come from the same finishing school, they have much more in common than separates them," she said.

Rabin said she has still not conceded the possibility that Barak and Shahak will join forces under Barak's leadership.

"Ehud was elected democratically to lead Labor. There's nothing wrong with joining him as his no. 2 and Amnon should announce that."

Honor sought for 'UK's Schindler'

Holocaust center wants British spy Frank Foley recognized for rescuing 10,000 Jews

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

LONDON — Israel was urged yesterday to honor a British spy in Berlin who helped at least 10,000 Jews to flee Nazi Germany and escape the Holocaust.

The call to recognize forgotten hero Frank Foley was made by Britain's Holocaust Educational Trust after the publication of a book by journalist Michael Smith on Foley's exploits.

Foley helped to rescue even more Jews than Oskar Schindler — famed subject of an Oscar-winning film — and grateful survivors echoed the plea for him to be honored.

Smith, author of *Foley: The Spy Who Saved 10,000 Jews*, told BBC Radio: "It became something of a personal crusade to get this man recognized."

Foley was head of the British M16 intelligence station in Berlin during the 1930s. He controlled visas to Britain but had no diplomatic immunity and could have been arrested at any time.

Foley, who died in 1958, flouted strict British immigration rules to get visas for Jews. He hid in his home Jews hunted by the Gestapo, helped people find false passports and even went into concentration camps.

Lord Janner, chairman of the



Frank Foley

London-based Holocaust Education Trust wrote to Yad Vashem that "Frank Foley should be recognized and his memory honored as one of the Righteous Among Nations."

"He carried out thousands of rescues when one can be enough to qualify. He risked his own life and position and did not seek any remuneration for his actions."

"At times, he (Foley) sheltered a number of Jews in his home in Berlin, including Leo Baeck, chairman of the Association of German Rabbis," Janner said in his letter to Mordechai Paldi, director of the Department for Righteous Among the Nations at

Yad Vashem.

"He repeatedly and successfully pleaded with the British authorities to be given extra blank exit visas to Palestine, which he used to help German Jews to escape, and worked long and tirelessly to help as many [as] possible," Janner said.

"The Israelis were asked to honor him by some of the aid workers who worked with him but the Prime Minister's Office blocked it. I don't quite know why, but I suspect it was because he had worked with M16 and at that stage the British were so hated in Israel."

Sabine Comberti, whose family were given visas by Foley, told *The Daily Telegraph*: "He saved our lives. If anybody deserves a place in Yad Vashem, he does. He was a wonderful man."

Paldi said in response that Yad Vashem has a file on Foley, and that he has asked for more information about him.

"We view the whole thing favorably," Paldi said. "We were asked whether the late Mr. Foley could be recognized as a righteous gentile among the nations, and we said only if he meets certain qualifications — including risk to one's life and career. If Mr. Foley acted within the parameters of his duty, we would extend our gratitude, but this would not warrant the title of righteous gentile."

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ON THE RECORD

• I'm not sure about his [Ehud Barak's] abilities to lead the country...In the last half year, I've noticed [in him] political behavior very reminiscent of the political conduct that brought the country to this situation under the leadership of Bibi Netanyahu...The first quality is Machiavellianism, which means that the end justifies the means — Labor MK Nissim Zivili, in an interview on Israel Radio, yesterday.

• Amnon is quite naive — Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak on Amnon Lipkin-Shahak in an interview with *Ma'ariv*, January 1

• The two of them come from the same finishing school. Why can't they work together? — Leah Rabin, on Ehud Barak and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, in an interview on Channel 1, yesterday.

WORLD

in brief

Clinton proposes big boost in defense spending

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton yesterday proposed the first major increase in US defense spending in a decade, saying he will ask Congress for an additional \$12 billion as the first part of a multi-year request to respond to growing fears about US military readiness.

"We want our forces to remain the best equipped in the world into the next century, and that is what this effort will assure," Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

US officials said Clinton hoped that would be the down payment on a six-year, \$100 billion increase in defense spending. That represents the largest real increase in defense spending in a decade and the largest since the Cold War buildup in the mid-1980s.

Seven children said killed by Kabul mine blast

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - A landmine exploded near a military base in the Afghan capital Kabul yesterday, killing seven children and wounding three others, the official Kabul radio said.

The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said the mine was laid in Sherpoor area in northern Kabul by "opposition forces" when they were based there - a reference to president Burhanuddin Rabbani's government that was ousted by the Taliban Islamic movement in 1996.

Winter storm dumps snow on US Midwest

CHICAGO (Reuters) - The season's first significant winter storm dumped heavy snow across the US Midwest overnight and early yesterday, and authorities issued travel warnings and deployed snowplows and salt-carrying trucks.

A frontal system stretching from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico spread winter misery and threatened to dump more than 30 cms. of snow in the nation's midsection over the weekend.

Heavy flooding in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - More than 1,500 people have fled their homes in Malaysia to escape flooding caused by heavy monsoon rains, news reports said yesterday.

A total of 1,515 people in six districts of Pahang state in the northeast of Peninsular Malaysia have been evacuated from their homes since heavy rains began last Sunday, the national Bernama news agency said.

In the neighboring states of Johor, Terengganu and Kelantan, floods have forced dozens of people to take shelter in community halls and schools, newspapers said.

Russian woman hides dead baby in freezer

MOSCOW (AP) - Police found a baby's corpse in its mother's freezer in northern Russia, the Interfax news agency reported yesterday.

The woman, now 38, had hidden her pregnancy and delivered the baby at home. It was not clear whether the child was stillborn or killed, Interfax said, citing a prosecutor in Pechora, about 1,450 kilometers northeast of Moscow.

The woman had kept the corpse in her apartment for more than a year, the prosecutor said. The report did not say whether the woman would face any charges.

Nostalgic Castro fetes 40th anniversary of Cuban revolution

By ANDREW CANTORHNE

HAVANA (Reuters) - Exactly four epoch-making decades after his Cuban Revolution triumph, veteran communist leader Fidel Castro made a nostalgic return on Friday night to the scene of his famous declaration of victory in 1959.

A crowd in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba - known as the "Cradle of the Revolution" - rose and chanted "Fidel! Fidel!" as he walked out on the same wooden-railed balcony from which he addressed an ecstatic victory rally on January 1, 1959.

"I live and perceive again the details as if everything were happening at this moment," a bespectacled Castro, standing erect and dressed in his trademark olive-green military fatigues, said at the start of a speech to the nation.

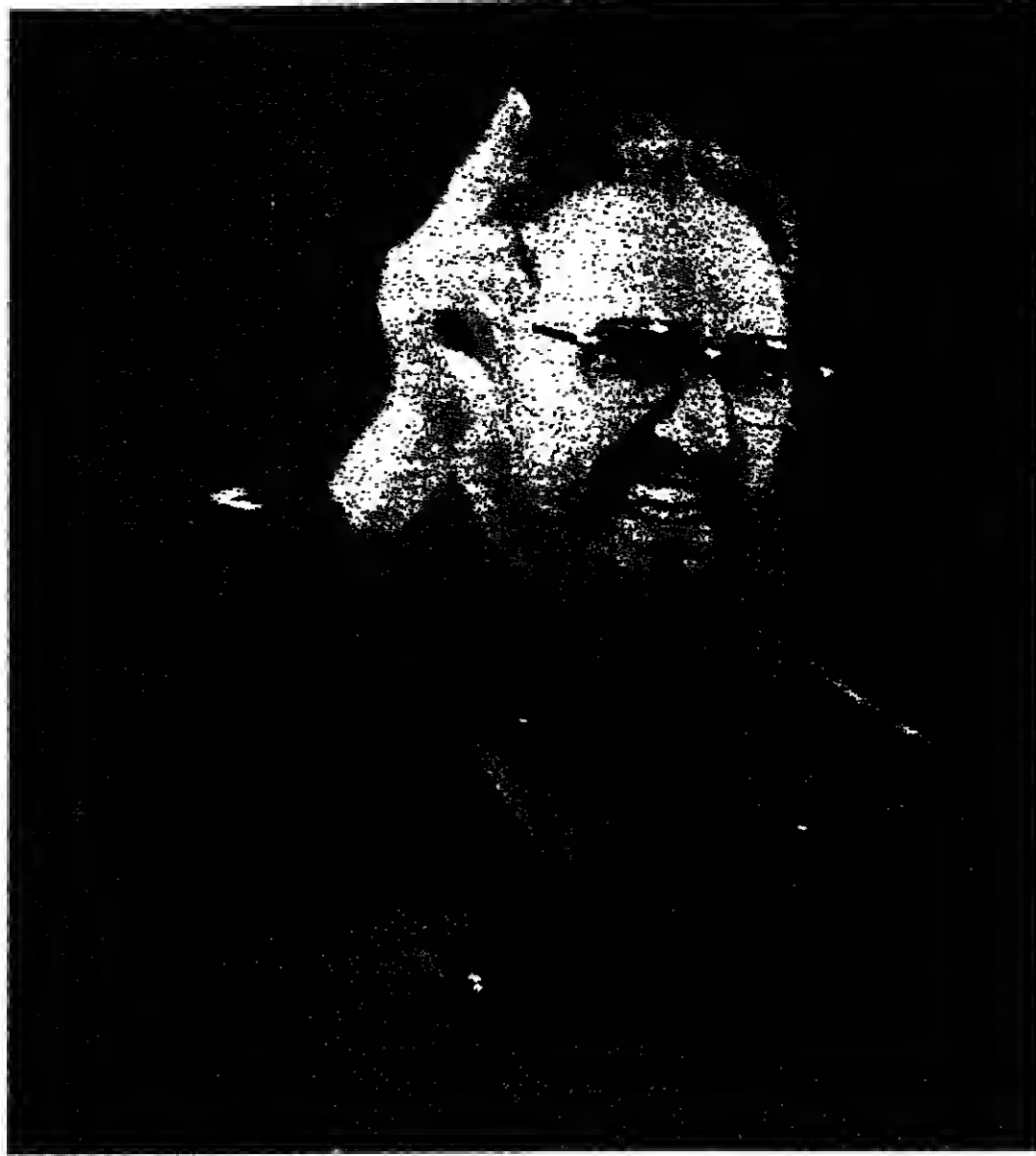
Reading from a script, and speaking - by his standards - for an unusually short 90 minutes, Castro said that beyond the age difference, he is still the same man "who dresses, who thinks, who dreams the same" as the erstwhile young guerrilla.

Rather than the unkempt rebels who hailed him in 1959, Castro's audience this time was an orderly 1,000-plus invited guests - including Cuba's ruling elite, foreign diplomats and Santiago de Cuba officials - sitting in tiered ranks of chairs amid massive security.

In the audience were arts world figures including Colombian novelist and Castro friend Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Ecuadorian painter Oswaldo Guayasamin, and Portugal's Nobel Prize-winning author Jose Saramago.

Speaking from the exact spot in Santiago de Cuba's 16th-century town hall from which he proclaimed victory after the flight of dictator Fulgencio Batista in the early hours of January 1, 1959, Castro recounted details of his two-year rebel war.

Turning to familiar themes over the decades, Castro bit out at the United States with a tribute to Cubans' resistance of "40 years of aggression, blockade, and economic, political and ideological war from the most powerful and richest imperialist power that has ever existed in the history of the world." The current capitalist-dominated



Cuban President Fidel Castro speaks yesterday from the same balcony in Santiago de Cuba from which he proclaimed the Cuban revolution 40 years ago. (AP)

world economic order will, Castro predicted, "fall inevitably," while speculative cash-flows and neoliberal globalization had taken the world to the edge of disaster.

"Socialism or Death! Fatherland or Death! We will conquer!" proclaimed Castro at the end of his speech at the anniversary celebration, broadcast live on the Caribbean island's state-run televi-

sion and radio.

Earlier, Cuba's ruling communists rang in the new year with patriotic celebrations of the 40th anniversary and the island's traditional socialist rallying cries. Television played the Cuban national anthem over black-and-white images of Castro and his rebel "barbudos" ("bearded ones"). "More than three and a half cen-

turies of colonialism and almost 60 years of hateful Yankee neoliberal domination began to be definitively annihilated on that first of January, and Cuba became from that time and forever a free territory," said a special New Year's midnight message on state television.

Havana contends the United States hijacked its war of independence in the 19th century, entering

Cuba at the last minute to clinch victory over Spain in 1898, but imposing puppet governments between that year and the 1959 revolution.

Seeking to strike a more statesmanlike pose than in 1959, though no less militant in his beliefs, the now gray-bearded Castro was symbolically declaring victory again on Friday night - this time for his own 40-year survival against the odds.

Castro and Cuba's ruling Communist Party are proud to have survived the decades of US-led opposition, which have included a nearly 37-year-old economic embargo and plots to assassinate him with poisoned cigars or exploding seashells.

Castro also defied predictions his would be the next communist system to fall in the early 1990s after the domino-like collapse of socialism in the former Soviet bloc.

The loss of crucial Soviet aid and trade plunged Cuba into an economic crisis that shrank its economy by 35 percent and squeezed the island's 11 million inhabitants as never before.

But Cuba's fundamental political system remains intact and looks likely to stay that way into the 21st century.

While supporters hail Castro as a 20th-century hero and Third World champion, his critics and foes around the world denounce him as a Machiavellian tyrant who perverted the original revolution to impose a dictatorial political system and repress internal opposition.

Cuban exile leaders in Florida - a bastion of anti-Castro sentiment - scorned Havana's celebrations, calling January 1 an anniversary of "blood and tears." And dissidents in Cuba urged the world to remember what they say are nearly 400 prisoners of conscience languishing in prisons across the island.

Ordinary Cubans, interviewed about the significance of the revolution's anniversary, expressed pride in the country's sense of identity, Castro's bold toppling of Batista, his resistance to US pressure, and his provision of free medical care and education.

But they frequently criticized their daily economic problems, the lack of freedom for both private enterprise and political opposition, and Castro's lengthy hold on power.

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By BERNARD EDINGER

SKOPIJE (Reuters) - France's defense minister has raised the specter of a pull-out by NATO of all peace monitors from Kosovo if fighting there spins out of control.

Minister Alain Richard blamed renewed fighting in the southern Serbian province mainly on ethnic Albanian guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

Speaking to reporters as he flew from Bosnia to Macedonia for New Year visits to French troops on Friday, Richard said it would become clear around March whether the situation was headed for peace or war.

"The main destabilizing factor today is the KLA, not the Serbs...and if the clashes continue and grow, the accords (reached by US negotiator Richard Holbrooke) will no longer be

valid and we will have to go back to the threats of military pressure which existed before," he said.

Richard said in a worst-case scenario NATO's newly-created "Extraction Force" based in Macedonia would have to rescue from Kosovo all foreigners, including peace monitors deployed there by the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE).

He said the five-nation, French-commanded Extraction Force would have to grow from 1,850 to 5,000 men for the mission.

The force is setting up camp in Macedonia close to the Kosovo border. It will also include British, German, Italian and Dutch troops with helicopters and armored vehicles.

"We would have to station tens of thousands of soldiers on the spot if we wanted to prevent the

KLA from establishing territorial control and the allies are opposed to this," Richard said.

"So we would have to adopt other solutions such as cutting off KLA financing abroad and going back...to threats (of air attacks)." It was such threats against Serb targets which led Belgrade to agree to allow access to the area of unarmed OSCE monitors, of whom only about 160 are so far operating in Kosovo.

Richard said it would only be when all 2,000 monitors were in the field, around March, that it would be possible to see whether they could carry out their job.

Diplomats said Macedonia was increasingly uneasy about mounting pressure from Belgrade, angry that Skopje had allowed the NATO force to set up in the country, itself a former republic of Yugoslavia.

Rebels massacre 22 in Algeria

ALGIERS (Reuters) - Algerian rebels slashed the throats of 22 people in an overnight attack on the hamlet of Oued al Aachane, 380 kms. southwest of Algiers, government security forces said yesterday.

The incident was the third of its kind in as many weeks.

Fifty villagers were killed at Tadjena hamlet in Chlef province, 170 kms. west of Algiers, three weeks ago and 19 died in another

massacre five days ago in Ain Defia region, 130 kms. southwest of the capital.

The rebels consider the Moslem holy month of Ramadan, which began two weeks ago, an auspicious period to accelerate a campaign of violence which began in early 1992 when Algerian authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

More than 65,000 people have

been killed since then, according to Western estimates.

The local daily newspaper *Liberte* reported that Moslem rebels had killed 14 soldiers and wounded eight with a roadside bomb ambush on Thursday in the western province of Oran, near the town of Guel in Oran province, 350 kms. west of Algiers.

There was no immediate confirmation of the ambush from official or independent sources.

US murder rate lowest in 30 years

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States' murder rate dropped in 1997 to its lowest level in three decades, largely due to a fall in gun violence, the Justice Department announced yesterday.

The nation's murder rate was 6.8 per 100,000 people in 1997, the lowest level since 1967 when 6.2 per 100,000 people were killed, the Justice Department said.

"The sharp increase in homicides in the late 1980s and much of the subsequent decline is attributable to a rise and fall in gun violence by juveniles and young adults," the Justice Department said.

Much of the decline was in

larger cities - those with a population of more than one million people - where the murder rate fell from 35.5 per 100,000 in 1991 to 20.3 per 100,000 in 1997.

Murder rates among people 25 years and older had declined steadily during the past 20 years but the rates for younger groups rose sharply in the late 1980s and early 1990s before falling more recently.

The report also found that from 1976 to 1997, 85 percent of white murder victims were killed by whites and 94 percent of black victims were killed by blacks.

During the same period, blacks were seven times more likely than whites to be homicide victims and eight times more likely

than whites to commit homicides.

The number of husbands, wives, boyfriends and girlfriends killed in each race and gender group also fell from 1976 to 1997.

Males were most often the victims and perpetrators in homicides - males were nine times more likely than women to commit murder and male and female offenders were more likely to target male than female victims.

The Justice Department announced last week that the violent crime rate in the United States had fallen almost 7 percent in 1997 to the lowest level since the National Crime Victimization Survey started 25 years ago.

هكذا من الأصل

Yemen hostage survivors 'amazed to be alive'

By PAUL MAJERIE

LONDON (Reuters) — The survivors of a hostage gun battle in Yemen said they were amazed to be alive after being used as human shields but denied they had been pressured by Yemeni authorities to shift blame for the massacre.

The hostages, looking drawn, enthusiastically praised each other's courage and calm in the hall of bullets.

"I am just amazed to be alive," said David Holmes on Friday. "There was not anybody who finished. They were all incredibly calm."

Another hostage, Brian Smith, said: "Like the rest of my companions, I expected to die in the conflict."

Giving graphic and vivid accounts of their terrifying ordeal, the hostages said they could not tell who had opened fire first — the kidnappers or Yemeni troops.

"None of us had any idea who fired first," Smith said. "We simply do not know."

At an emotion-charged news conference, three of the hostages told their tale of a drama which they said "switched from the bizarre to the tragic."

Teacher Sue Mattocks denied news reports that the hostages had been pressured into taking part in a whitewash that would shift any blame from Yemeni forces onto the kidnappers.

"That is not true," she said. "Nobody put any pressure on me at all to change my story or say anything that I felt wasn't true."

The horror of the ordeal was all too vivid for her. "We were being used as shields with bullets going all over the place," she said.

Eight British tourists and an Australian flew into London on Friday after surviving the gun battle when troops moved in to free them.

With questions still being asked about the heavily criticized rescue operation in which four hostages died, Yemen's ambassador in London was summoned to the British Foreign Office for the second time in two days for talks on just what exactly happened.

Three Britons and an Australian, died and two hostages were wounded last Tuesday when Yemeni security forces raided a hideout where kidnappers were holding a party of foreign tourists.

Britain's Foreign Office Minister Joyce Quin paid tribute to the returning hostages, saying: "The whole nation is appalled by the deaths and injuries inflicted on the innocent victims of this week's horrific kidnapping in Yemen."

She pleaded for the survivors and their relatives to be given privacy, and time to grieve. Quin also pledged: "Our efforts continue

unabated to establish precisely what happened and to bring those responsible for this atrocious crime to justice."

Officials have said the British government would be very concerned if it turned out its advice to seek a negotiated solution to the kidnap saga was ignored.

Quin underlined London's concern over what it sees as Yemeni confusion when summoning Ambassador Hossein al-Anri for New Year's Day talks.

Yemen's Interior Ministry has defended the raid, saying there had been no time for negotiations as the kidnappers had started killing hostages.

A little known guerrilla group calling itself the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army claimed responsibility for the kidnappings and blamed the government for the hostage deaths.

Britain has sent four detectives to Yemen and Australia has also sent a senior diplomat to press for details of the shoot-out. An American is still in hospital in Aden and the FBI has sent a team to investigate.

A US embassy spokesman said yesterday that American and British investigators "are working together with their appropriate Yemeni counterparts," adding that the teams were receiving good cooperation.

An FBI team and British detectives arrived in Yemen on Friday to probe the rescue operation, after Britain accused Yemen of lack of cooperation in providing a full account of Tuesday's raid.

One diplomat said the US Federal Bureau of Investigation had sent about 10 agents to Sanaa, while the British team was made up of four detectives.

A Yemeni official said earlier that Australia's ambassador to neighboring Saudi Arabia was also expected to join the probe into the abduction and the storming of the kidnappers' hideout.

British ministers have said London would be very concerned if it turned out its advice to seek a negotiated solution to the kidnap had been ignored by Sanaa.

According to a Yemeni official quoted in Saturday's *Times* newspaper, Yemeni security chiefs knew days before the 16 tourists were kidnapped that Islamic guerrillas were planning to attack a British target.

However, they failed to alert British diplomats who only learned about the plot after the hostages were killed in the rescue bid.

Yemen has insisted its security forces had to go in because the kidnappers had started killing hostages. But some hostages have said they were used by the kidnappers as human shields as Yemeni forces moved in.

Nine killed in Canadian avalanche

KANGIQUASUJUAQ, Quebec (AP) — Hundreds of New Year's revelers in a remote Inuit village were relaxing after a square dance, feasting on caribou meat and oat cakes, when a wall of their building shattered with what sounded like a thunderclap.

Tons of onrushing snow filled the school gymnasium, burying partygoers in up to 3 meters of powder and killing nine people — five of them children under the age of eight.

"People were frantic," said teacher Anne Lanteigne. "I took a frying pan, and I was digging with a frying pan." The avalanche injured 25 others — 10 of them seriously — in the northern Quebec coastal village of Kangiqsuajuaq (pronounced Kan-JIK-soo-an-oo-joo-ak), in an Inuit region 1,500 kilometers northeast of Montreal.

The exact cause of the calamity was still being debated yesterday. Speculation centered on a ceremonial gun salute about 90 minutes before the avalanche that might have loosened snow on a nearby hill.

Six people were found dead immediately. The other three victims — a mother and her young daughter and son — were discovered several hours later under tons of snow, said Luc Harvey, chief of the Kativik regional police force in Kuujuaq, 300 kilometers west of the village.

Police said they had accounted for everyone and called off the search.

"It was like an explosion," school principal Jean Leduc said. "You heard an immense crack and the wall was flying into pieces and, the next thing you knew, the gym was entirely covered in snow."

"People were looking for their kids, their husbands, wives, and parents," Leduc said. "They began to cry and scream..."

"There was a few seconds of panic... After that people started to get a grip on themselves and



A snowmobile protrudes from the rear of the school engulfed by an avalanche during a New Year's Eve party on Friday. (AP)

found tools right there to try to pull bodies out of the snow. A lot were alive because [the snow] was very fresh and, as time went on, some were not alive."

The toll could have been much worse — between 400 and 500 people were packed into the gym when the avalanche struck shortly before 2 a.m. Friday.

Mayor Maggie Emudluk said people were celebrating at midnight and then took part in a square dance. The celebration is an integral part of the evening that also boasts a feast of caribou, seal, fish, and oat cakes. Emudluk

remembers she looked at her watch at about 1:25 a.m. and that the avalanche started about 20 minutes later.

"It sounded like thunder but only for a few seconds," a shaken Emudluk said.

Mary Baron, the school's director, was sitting with her three-year-old son Matthew during a drawing for a door prize when snow smashed through the gym wall.

"Everybody was screaming," she said. "I wasn't buried completely and right away went to dig out my son." Residents dug franti-

cally through snow that slid down the 75-meter hill and punched through the wall of the gym, Harvey said. The force of the avalanche crushed pickup trucks and snowmobiles.

Residents faced a fierce snowstorm, 95 kph wind and minus 20 Celsius temperatures to search for those buried under the snow. Police and doctors flew into Kangiqsuajuaq later after being hampered by the snow and strong winds.

Billy May, a heavy-equipment operator, was among those who helped retrieve the bodies. "A

friend of mine lost two kids and his wife. We just found them... We're really a close-knit community," he said.

Twelve of the injured were flown to Montreal hospitals. Most were in satisfactory condition yesterday. One 26-year-old man with multiple fractures was in critical condition. The others, including a six-month-old baby, were treated in Kuujuaq.

Coroners, Quebec provincial police investigators, and avalanche experts were to fly into the village, which was hit by yet another blizzard yesterday.

Troops called in as 19 killed in Nigeria

By MATTHEW TOSTEVIN

LAGOS (Reuters) — Hundreds of Nigerian troops yesterday Saturday reinforced the oil-producing Niger Delta, where up to 19 youths have been reported dead in protests to demand a greater share of the region's wealth, residents said.

Residents said troops had been deployed in the Bayelsa State capital Yenagoa and to protect oil installations in the creeks and swamps where multinational firms like Royal Dutch/Shell and Italy's Agip operate.

"Yenagoa has been calm today and the sporadic shooting has stopped but the military are still arriving because of the remaining uncertainty," one resident said from the town.

Military ruler General Abdulsalam Abubakar on Friday said his government would crack down on the unrest which poses a huge threat to state revenues as the country of 108 million heads towards the restoration of civilian rule next May.

Police put the death toll in Yenagoa at six ethnic Ijaw youths since protests erupted after the December 30 expiry of an ultimatum telling oil firms to pull out of the delta whose oil accounts for about 90 percent of Nigeria's exports.

Activists on Friday reported 19 deaths in the region, where a dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed.

"The commissioner of police is calling on everyone in the state to remain calm, and to go about their

lawful and legitimate business," Bayelsa Police Commissioner Mahum Eli said in a statement broadcast on local radio.

Eli said TK Ogoriba, leader of the Movement for the Survival of the Ijaw Ethnic Group which has spearheaded the protests, was being held in protective custody after he disowned the demonstrators.

"As soon as the situation improves and his security can be guaranteed, he will be released," Eli said.

The Niger Delta has been seized by a tide of unrest which has intensified since the sudden death in June of dictator Sani Abacha, who had no qualms about locking up opponents or putting down dissent with military force.

A botchpotch of Ijaw youth groups, some drawing inspiration from an ancient warrior cult, have at times shut in more than one third of Nigeria's oil output through sabotage attacks, hostage-taking and the seizure of oil wells and export facilities.

Oil firms operating joint ventures with state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation are reluctant to appear to condone heavy-handed action, after being criticized by pressure groups following the execution for murder of minority rights campaigner Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight fellow Ogoni activists in 1995.

But no firm wants to pull out of the region at a time of rock bottom world oil prices, given the relatively cheap production costs in Nigeria compared to other parts of the world.

Hindu groups blamed for attacks on Indian Christians

By AMITAV RANJAN

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India's main opposition Congress Party said yesterday a wave of attacks on Christians appears to be a campaign by Hindu right-wing groups to whip up conflict.

Police detained 45 Hindus on Friday in connection with the torching of a Catholic prayer hall by mobs on Wednesday. Four nuns and two priests were injured in the 10th reported attack against the Christian community since Christmas Day.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks in the western state of Gujarat, but Congress and Christian activists blame Hindu right-wing activists, including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) — World Hindu Council — and its affiliate Bajrang Dal.

"These are not isolated or stray incidents, but there appears to be a well planned campaign by the VHP, Bajrang Dal and other allied organizations to instill fear in the minds of minority communities, to make places of worship and educational institutions the target of vandalism and destruction, and to disturb the age-old tradition of social tolerance and harmony," the Congress said in a memorandum to the Indian president.

It demanded that the federal government issue a "clear and unambiguous warning to the Gujarat state government and put it on watch. The flow of aggres-

sive statements and destructive actions must stop immediately. The state government must commit itself to a specific action plan to prevent such events from recurring," said the Congress letter.

It said a team sent by the ministry to assess the situation in Gujarat had reported 28 incidents, mostly "damage to property rather than attacks leading to bodily harm or injury," up to December 29, after which no fresh violence had been reported.

The United Christian Forum for Human Rights (UCFHR) says it recorded in 1998 more than 60 cases of church- and Bible-burning, rape, and assault — most of which were in Gujarat.

VHP's Senior Vice-President Acharya Giriraj Kishore yesterday denied the allegations against his group and the Bajrang Dal. "Our claim is that the allegations

against VHP and Bajrang Dal is completely false, and we urge the government to set up a three-member enquiry committee headed by a high court judge to probe our involvement," Kishore told reporters.

He said the allegations were an attempt to damage the reputation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the eyes of the world. The Hindu nationalist BJP, which leads the federal coalition, is widely as connected to the VHP.

Kishore said the VHP wanted an end to "forcible" religious conversions by Christians. Christian missionaries say they are only offering charity to the poor, tribal people, and those in remote areas.

Christians make up 2.3 percent of the 960 million people in politically secular India. More than 80 percent of the population are Hindu.

Two hurt in Cape Town car bomb explosion

By JEREMY LOWELL

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) — Police said two people were injured in a car bomb explosion in Cape Town on Friday at a waterfront entertainment area where two people were killed in a pipe bomb blast last August.

"The explosion went off in a parking area at the entrance to the Victoria and Alfred wharf," police spokesman Jacques Wiese told Reuters. "It appears to have been a car bomb."

Wiese said two men were injured in the blast. One man was treated for superficial shrapnel wounds and the other for shock.

Cape Town has been the scene of clashes involving gangs and Muslim militants, and recently Muslims have protested against the US and British air strikes against Iraq.

Police warned people in Cape Town to be on the alert after an explosion rocked a synagogue in a

Cape Town suburb on December 18. Police said it was too early to speculate on who was behind Friday's car bomb at the height of the summer tourist season, but they believe the August 25 pipe bomb attack on the US franchise Planet Hollywood restaurant at the waterfront could be the work of Muslim militants.

Two men were killed and dozens of people were injured, including a family of British tourists, in the Planet Hollywood bombing.

Two callers claiming to belong to a radical Muslim group said they planted that bomb in retaliation for US air strikes on targets in Afghanistan and Sudan, but the group's official spokesman later denied any involvement.

The latest explosion came a week ahead of a visit to the city by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, at which local Muslim groups have vowed to protest against the British and US strikes against Iraq in December.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9537, CIRCULATION - 02-531-5610, 1-800-222-7878, Fax 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING - 02-531-5608, 02-531-5638/40 Fax 02-538-8408, TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasger, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-639-0333, Fax 03-639-0277, Published daily except Sunday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. as The Jerusalem Post 1998. Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN-DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1989-1992 N. DAVID GROSS, 1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN
INTERNET EDITION: http://www.jpost.co.il General e-mail: jpost@jpost.co.il Editorial e-mail: editors@jpost.co.il Subscriptions e-mail: subs@jpost.co.il

The euro has landed

In an era when too many news stories are wrongly hyped as "historic," there is a risk that a truly historic event will go unappreciated. However, the danger appears to have passed that the launch of the euro, the first major new continental currency in history, would fizzle like a damp squib at a New Year party.

The euro begins trading in real world markets tomorrow, yet it was little more than a year ago that Europeans began to believe the launch might actually happen. Outside the financial and trading world, it still does not appear to have dawned on most Americans that this new man-made euro era has actually arrived and will have far-reaching consequences for their own economy and lives.

The 11 nations - Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain - which have formed the first euro zone are pioneers on the now inevitable road to closer political unity in Europe. This is the continent that for several hundred years has alternated between being the most gifted and creative and the most savage and divisive on the face of the earth. Now the focus has switched from arts, sciences, and wars to straightforward economics and a single currency does not necessarily make a political union, but it is a huge step in that direction and one that cannot be reversed. Yet this edging towards unity is one of the main reasons why Britain, the only major EU power to opt out, remains suspicious and is loathe to surrender any more of the precious sovereignty it fought so ferociously to defend in World War II.

All across Europe, irrespective of whether politicians and people agreed or disagreed with the decision, the event is still being accepted as a truly historic turning point that creates a powerful new force in the world economy. It is the culmination of post-war hopes to unite this collection of nations whose disagreements, twice in this century just ending, dragged the world into its bloodiest-ever wars. The 1990s have turned out, appropriately enough, to be the decade that at last put the legacy of World War II behind Europe. The changeover to the future began with the fall of the Berlin Wall and is finally defined by the arrival of the Euro - but the changeover still will not be complete until Britain abandons its suspicions of a united Europe and joins the euro family.

Although Europeans will not be rattling the same euro coins in their pockets and purses until 2002, as of tomorrow francs, marks, and the rest of the 11 currencies will have vanished from foreign exchange markets. The familiar older European notes and coins will continue to circulate for the next three years. They are no

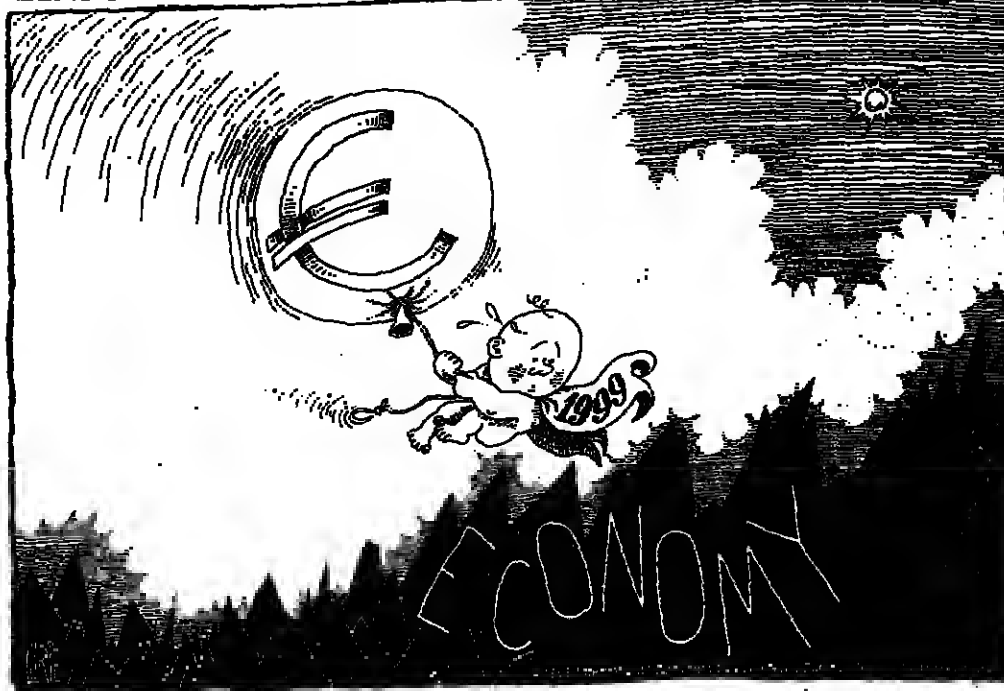
longer independent currencies, but subsets of the euro; which now will become the main European currency for noncash transactions. Equities and bonds will be quoted in euros, bank transfers and business deals will move swiftly to the new money. All of this is expected to create a seamless market of almost 300 million Europeans who can trade, import, and export without exchange rate costs or frayed nerves about currency movements. Even this limited euro zone within the EU will command 20 percent of world economic output and 18 percent of world trade. By any calculation that is a powerful economic force and, by association, a powerful political one.

Wim Duisenberg, the president of the new European Central Bank, will become as familiar a figure on the world monetary stage as Alan Greenspan, the head of the US Federal Reserve. Duisenberg is now at the helm of European monetary policy, including the setting of interest rates. This marks the most wrenching change for many sovereign governments, especially the French and the Germans, who until now had jealously guarded such responsibility. However, critics have suggested that the lack of a single European government to take decisive responsibility in a banking crisis is a grave danger in the new system, which only time and the weathering of any such crisis will test. Duisenberg's first priority must be to establish a Central Bank free from the whims of politicians. Despite the starchy-eyed optimism of many Europhiles, it remains clear that a single currency will not dissolve old national rivalries and different governments may put different pressures on the Central Bank.

The euro is, of course the EU's answer to the US dollar and until trading in the new currency is established. American analysts are likely to remain divided on its impact. One newspaper commented that the euro marks "the end for one of America's great free lunches," while others remind Americans that the dollar will retain its premier role in world finance and trade. The optimists say that not only will the euro not harm US interests, but it may bring great benefits, such as new opportunities for American companies in the euro zone now freed from currency and price fluctuations.

Either way, the euro has arrived and is here to stay, so the question is not if it will work, but how well it will help to stabilize the world economy. However, once this great EU venture is firmly in place, the union will need to get to work on developing a consistent and effective foreign policy which might be more suited to the continent's new economic power than the current inconsistent bumbling that passes for the European Union's world view.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



HAPPY LANDING!

The end of ideology

Just about the only ideology alive and well in our political system is the musical chairs of the ceaseless, desperate shuffle of our elected representatives for position, prominence and glory.

Never before have we been witness to such a wholesale reorganization of the political map, almost without relation to any set of beliefs - diplomatic, social, religious or otherwise.

Jumping ship, trading places, swapping party allegiances. Without Israel Radio's Yanon Dekel or your own Cray super-computer it's impossible to keep track of the dizzying political ping-pong.

One minute you're an arch-hawk, because the political alliance is right; the next minute, you're joining Labor or some new, ill-defined centrist grouping because there's a better position available.

David Levy, who once did an end-run around Yitzhak Shamir from the right, might move to Labor (if the price is right). Limor Livnat, who considers Bibi too weak-kneed towards the Palestinians, is flirting with Dan Meridor and Meimad. Yitzhak Mordechai is waiting to see where his chances are best.

Amnon Shahak is so enamored of himself and charmed by the polls that Labor isn't good enough for him. Haim Ramon, Abraham Burg and other slippery guys are preparing to bolt too - to wherever is best... for them, that is.

Some of the Labor and Likud back-benchers are so scared of losing their Knesset seats - and rightly so - that they travel to the parliamentary lavatories with their seat figuratively glued to their behinds, quipped one MK this week.

Then there is the holy public opinion poll. Ah, the polls. They decide all. Popularity surveys will decide who plumps first, Meridor or Shahak; whether Mordechai should cross the floor; whether Nissim Zivili jumps ship, and so on.

Our politics is all about personal gain. For the (dishonorable repre-

DAVID WEINBERG

sentatives who have the ability to pass judgment on our national fate, the key issues are who you hate more and with whom your personal political career will best advance. Doctrine, dogma, conviction, belief, ideals, deeply held personal opinion - these things play no role. We've reached the end of ideology.

It wasn't always like this.

We're so repulsed by today's con men that we're prepared to vote for the politically parve center

Shimon Peres didn't set up a "third way" when Yitzhak Rabin topped him in the polls. Menachem Begin spent 29 years in opposition, in the same party. Golda Meir didn't seek a new political home when things got sticky. Real ideological differences stood in the way. Loyalty to a perspective and a party was important.

Now one might think that the vaporization of ideology, the fading of doctrinal combat, would occasion a welcome break in our heated political rhetoric. If dogmatic differences are in decline, the beat can be turned down, right?

But the language of Israeli politics has become even more florid and vicious over the past month. This, because of the *sinat hinam*, the gratuitous hatred that comes from power- and glory-driven politics.

Hateful rhetoric and inflammatory demagoguery increase in inverse proportion to the degree of ideological disagreement between the warring parties.

ON THE OTHER hand, you could

argue that the blurring of ideological differences in Israeli politics is not such a bad thing. Isn't this what we have prayed for - the messianic era when the heirs of Ben-Gurion and Begin lie down together?

After all, the big West Bank issues have more or less been settled; there's going to be a Palestinian state; and we'll hold on to most of the critical security and settlement areas, give or take a settlement or two.

It almost doesn't matter who the next foreign and defense ministers will be. Can you discern any difference between Ehud Barak, Shahak and Mordechai? Could it be that the 'silent majority' is finally coalescing into one center bloc, where integrity and good management matter more than uncompromising doctrinal fealty?

I guess that's possible. There are a few public servants and maybe a few politicians for whom centrist positioning is an ideological first choice.

I'm speaking of Maimonides' "golden middle path," moderation that constitutes a way of life; centrism as a belief system, not just a place, of "political refuge," at moments of off-balance opportunity. But I find that hard to believe about most of the cheats who dot our current political map.

I am willing to believe that the public is attracted to the center out of weariness. Israelis are tired of being conned and propagandized by our so-obviously hungry politicians, on all sides.

We are so repulsed by the bombastic, exaggerated rubbish that has become political staple around here that we're prepared to vote for someone almost laconic in appearance, ideologically elastic, politically parve.

Skip the ideology. Just find me somebody calm, polite, experienced and trustworthy - just for honesty's sake. Someone without too much fire in their belly or a sharply angled agenda.

Give me a mild-mannered, middle-of-the-road man.

Barak's week

DANIEL BLOCH

Last week was Ehud Barak's week. After many months of dull and lackluster performances and a great loss of popularity, he suddenly rose back from the ropes and started to hit back.

He decided to fight for his leadership post, showing a certain degree of ability to be decisive and courageous, to speak clearly and to the point and to prove that he is not Bibi's clone.

It took him a long time to get back to himself but better late than never.

Thanks to the challenge of Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, it is incumbent upon Barak to prove to the Israeli public, beyond any reasonable doubt, that he is the best candidate to lead the country into the first decade of the 21st century.

A good fight seems to bring out the best in Barak. He was on the offensive and he succeeded in putting both Netanyahu and Lipkin-Shahak on the defensive. But in the midst of his best week, he also committed a grave mistake that might prove fatal: he agreed to delay the date of the elections until the second half of May.

Barak will surely not benefit from a long, drawn-out campaign. The country does not need such a long period of electioneering that will probably give Netanyahu and his government opportunities to play tricks that can boost their chances of re-election.

In every civilized democratic country, early elections are held between 21 and 70 days from the date the government falls or resigns. In Israel, the basic law calls for early elections to be held within 60 days.

Suddenly the central election committee and the Ministry of Interior discovered that they need at least 90 days to prepare for the elections.

Where were they when this law was enacted several years ago? It is inconceivable that Israel, a high-tech superpower, cannot be prepared for early elections within two months.

It is also strange that Israel still uses one of the most primitive electoral procedures. Perhaps because it gives more chances for forgeries; and, for the dead to

Now he must prove to the public that he is the best candidate

remain active in politics?

It is still not too late for the Labor Party to master a majority in the Knesset this week for an earlier date. This will save the country and the economy from a long period of uncertainty and the possibility of a politically motivated gamble with our vital interests of security, stability and economic growth.

This will be the first test for Barak's new style of leadership: He does not have to compromise the vital interests of the country and he does not have to voluntarily jeopardize his chances of being elected.

IT IS NOW clear that the true battle in the coming elections is between Bibi and Barak. Shahak can only help Netanyahu because he and Barak are aiming at the same electorate that will decide the elections.

These are people on the moderate hawkish center, the upper middle class of the development areas, some of the new immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have already made it in Israeli society and the moderate Orthodox who believe that prevention of further bloodshed is more important than holding more parts of the West Bank or the Golan Heights. Their only hesitation stems from the question of who is the best candidate to lead the country in that direction.

Only a joint slate of Barak and Shahak - under the leadership of the former, not the latter - can secure these votes. Otherwise, these votes will go back to Bibi.

Shahak can boost his rating only by attacking Barak and by trying to attract some Labor politicians, like Nissim Zivili and Abraham Burg, who have no following and no independent political chances. He will not win, but he might ruin Barak's chances.

Barak is far from perfect. He made many mistakes in the past year. He sometimes surrounded himself with the wrong team of Israeli advisers. He did not include his true supporters in his inner circle.

But in spite of his mistakes he is the best alternative to Netanyahu and his policies, both on questions of security and the peace process as well as on the vital needs of the social and economic direction of Israel. He can present the best possible team if Shahak joins him and does not succumb to the wrong advice of people who make their personal agenda and ambition the first priority.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOR THE GREATER GOOD

Sir, - On May 17, 1977, I, together with many tens of thousands of depressed Israelis went to the polling booth and with hope in our hearts, stupidly voted for the Democratic Movement for Change. We did this after 30 years of the same government.

Within 24 hours of the results, DMC leader Yigal Yadin accepted the seat as Menachem Begin's deputy and Amnon Rubinstein just couldn't refuse the offer of a ministerial post. The loser Moshe Dayan was over the other side like a shot and what started out as a wonderful dream quickly became a terrible nightmare.

Are we heading for the same catastrophe? Only one man can

save history repeating itself - Ehud Barak. He can save the situation, not by heading the Labor list but by stepping down to No. 2. This fine soldier must be given to understand that he simply hasn't got it.

Like his predecessor he does not have the charisma, charm and personality to win over a majority of the Israeli public. He will be fighting politicians on the other side(s) that, when they speak, could convince Eskimos to purchase refrigerators.

Please MK Ehud Barak, you still have time to save our country by offering your No. 1 slot to - you know who.

SAMUEL LEWIS

Herzliya.

WRONG LABEL

Sir, - In her analysis "Netanyahu does it his way" (December 28), Liat Collins says Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's presentation to the Likud central committee used "much of the right-wing rhetoric" regarding what Yasser Arafat ultimately desires regarding Israel.

But, Netanyahu's charges repeat what Arafat and other Palestinians, PA radio, TV and newspapers say. And, the PA refuses to change

school textbooks which are based on parts of the Covenant which were supposed to be eliminated. The Liat Collins label of "right-wing rhetoric" is not reality-based. It illustrates the widespread unfortunate propensity to use such labels even when they clearly don't apply.

DR. JOSEPH LERNER

Jerusalem.

FLAUNTING THE TRUTH

Sir, - James Carville, an entertaining person and personal adviser to President Clinton, was recently in Israel to coach Ehud Barak on how to put his best features on display.

Barak should take note that it is alleged our visitor tried, though unsuccessfully, to have the US president deny under oath any misdoings or misdeeds.

Will he be coaching Barak to flaunt the truth and cover up?

A. HERSHBERG

Givatayim.

TRUST IN GOD

Sir, - It might be nice to see new money being printed to commemorate Israel's 50th anniversary. It might also be nice to see "In God We Trust" written in Hebrew on all notes and coins.

Is it only in America that they trust in God? In America all money has "In God We Trust" printed on it. This being the country that was promised to us by God - why don't we do likewise?

S. STEINBERG

Ginot Shimon.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On January 3, 1934, The Palestine Post reported that as from January 1, 1934, the London office of the Anglo-Palestine Bank took charge of the banking affairs of the Jewish Colonial Trust. This had evoked favorable comment in the Zionist circles and the British financial press.

50 years ago: On January 3,

1949, The Palestine Post reported that seven persons were injured by a lone Egyptian aircraft which bombed Jerusalem.

25 years ago: On January 3,

1974, The Jerusalem Post reported that while Israeli-Egyptian military disengagement talks were expected to resume in Geneva, Egypt announced that it was going ahead with military preparations "to liberate the occupied Arab territories."

Alexander Zvielli

هكذا من الأصل



Domenikos Theotokopoulos, El Greco (1541-1614): St. Francis Kneeling in Meditation, circa 1605-10 (to be sold by Christie's New York)



Diego Velazquez (1599-1660): Saint Rufina, 1632-4 (Christie's New York)

Spanish masters at unnamed prices

AT THE AUCTIONS

As reported last week, major oils by two of Spain's finest painters, Diego Velazquez (1599-1660) and Domenikos Theotokopoulos, El Greco (1541-1614), are to be sold by Christie's New York on January 20. The Velazquez, a magnificent portrait made between 1632-34, depicts Saint Rufina, the martyred Christian ceramic seller tortured to death by a Roman governor for smashing a pagan deity; and who with her sister Justa became the patron saint and protector of Seville. The canvas was painted in Madrid and the sister for Rufina was possibly one of the artist's daughters: the eldest was baptized in Seville and married at 14 to a painter; the youngest was 12 when Velazquez returned from Italy in 1631.

The traditional iconography of Rufina and Justa depicts them holding the pottery of their trade; and the unbroken white vessels symbolize their virgin state. The painting, with its mix of this painting and impasto, is similar in treatment and style to the *Sybil* by Velazquez in the Prado.

The El Greco, dated by style to around 1605-10, depicts St. Francis kneeling in meditation, the cord of his cassock used as a compositional device still imitated by later painters, more recently by Lucian Freud, who did much the same with a sock slung by a male nude. I can't tell you the estimates for these major canvases: estimates are only by request but will run into millions.

The El Greco is thought to have been a commission painted as a reprise of a larger, earlier composition now in the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. It was painted with brushes of various sizes, with tiny ones used to add little highlights that lend sparkle to the surface.

A number of other Spanish portraitists figure in this sale.

MATSA FOR Public Auctions is offering 270 lots, mostly of Israeli art, at its 91st auction in Tel Aviv on January 24. Some 200 of the offers are paintings of modest achievement and price. But there are many interesting lots: an 1888 Renoir of the port of Martigues (\$185,000-210,000); a seascape of a fishing port by Moise Kisling, 1949 (\$60,000-80,000); a lovely early Nahum Gutman oil of the facade of shops in old Neveh Tzedek (\$22,000-26,000); a colorful late Gutman in his early style of a house in an orchard (\$60,000-80,000); and a lovely watercolor of Gutman's wife in an interior from 1941 (\$10,000-14,000).

One of the bravura oils on offer is a strangely erotic canvas of a severed standing nude at a luncheon in the Elin Karem landscape, by Ivain Schwebel, 1974 (\$13,000-16,000). A typical late Reuven Rubin of olive trees and goats on the way to Safed has an estimate of \$38,000-45,000.

Also of interest is an early Litvinovsky from the '20s of a woman holding flowers, painted in a Rembrandtesque post-impressionist style. This impressive and attractive canvas should top its best estimate of \$16,000. An early Stematsky watercolor landscape from the '30s has the restrained palette of the period (\$8,000-12,000); a minimalist oil portrait by Ori Reisman from 1974 should do well (\$3,500-5,000); and a semi-abstract still life by Shmuel Tepler is surely



Pinhas Litvinovsky: Woman with Flowers, oils, the '20s (\$12,000-\$16,000 at Matsa, Tel Aviv)

worth more than \$600. A gouache of a beit midrash by the late naive Shalom (der Zeigermacher) Moscovitz should reach \$1,500.

There are several bold Miro color aquaduts on offer (around \$6,000); several through-the-window Zaritsky watercolors

(around \$3,000) and a large number of Bergners and Bezems. Sale and preview (from January 16) is at the ZOA House, Tel Aviv.

Getting the most out of farm animals' diets

A protein called leptin has become a buzzword in the mass media during the past four years since its ability to depress appetite in humans and mice was discovered. Although no practical application has yet resulted for human weight loss,

Hebrew University researchers have used genetic engineering to isolate the leptin protein involved in the regulation of food intake in farm animals. This recent achievement is likely to influence current feeding methods on the farm.

Agricultural biochemistry professor Arich Gertler and graduate student Nina Raver of HU's Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences in Rehovot have spent 18 months on the research, which involves the influence of leptin on the feeding habits and puberty of farm animals.

So far, they have been able to isolate and produce genetically engineered leptin from sheep, chickens and cows. They are now concentrating on how to identify and measure the leptin level in these animals at any given moment.

If they succeed, they will get a clearer picture of the effects of specific concentrations of the protein on the nutritional state of these animals. Should the researchers succeed in producing the protein in large quantities, studying how it affects the animals will be facilitated.

In cooperation with faculty colleague Dr. Oded Shoseyov, the researchers are also working on developing an analogue to leptin, which would have the opposite effect - nullifying the effect of the protein and increasing the animals' appetite, making meat production more efficient.

Experiments have also been carried out on poultry (in cooperation with Prof. Boaz Robinson and Dr. Israel Rosenbaum of the Department of Animal Sciences) and on cows (with a German research group from the University of Bonn). Sheep experiments have been launched with University of Missouri researchers in the US and another team at the Rowett Institute in Scotland.

There is even a possibility that fish farmers could benefit, and experiments on fish have been initiated with Dr. Avigail Elitzur of Eilat's National Institute of Oceanography.

The end result of all this experimental activity would be economy of operation in raising farm animals here and around the world.

the Sieff (now Weizmann) Institute. He chaired a Jewish Agency committee for the development of the chemical industry in Eretz Yisrael and was a founding member of the Israel Research Council.

Farkas married microbiologist Hannah Aharoni in 1940; their daughter Leora, who wrote about her involvement in the exhibition, noted in the catalog

that she was too young when he perished to remember him.

To get to "know" him posthumously, Leora visited the city where her father grew up, the school he attended and her grandfather's former pharmacy. She also found the site in Italy where his plane crashed.

As a result of looking through all the photos and reading the documents, she said she "was able to get a lively and meaningful image of him, rounded beyond my personal quest in search of my father."

UNIVERSAL BATTERY

Cellular-phone users usually spend a couple of minutes a day worrying about their phone batteries. These vital pieces of equipment tend to run low when you least expect it, so heavy users should always have a spare one handy. Sometimes, when the battery is suddenly empty, they look around for someone who has a compatible phone and borrow their battery to make an urgent call.

Now, cellphone batteries have become completely compatible in size.

The Dubek tobacco company, seeking to diversify into products that don't smoke people to death, has invested in a three-year-old startup company called Techium. Its Click-In batteries are all the same size, shape and weight, and they fit into an adapter whose size varies according to the type of cellphone, and which slides into the back of the phone.

They are cheaper than conventional cellphone batteries, and power 100 minutes of conversation between charges and 20 hours of standby.

Click-In was developed by Dror Manior, development director at Techium, but the idea came from his 12-year-old son, who wondered why one universal battery wasn't suitable for all phone brands.

The introductory price is NIS 175 for two batteries and the adapter, instead of NIS 258. They are sold at Cellcom branches and by other authorized dealers.

RAINBOW GAME BOY

Nintendo's Game Boy portable digital game has been popular for years among boys - and girls - around the world. Although personal computers and videogame systems attached to TV sets have attracted millions of fans, the hand-held Game Boy - with its monochrome little screen and figures manipulated with buttons - has remained static, at least until now.

Nearly 70 million of the devices have been sold since 1989; they automatically go out of date with the newly released Game Boy Color, which displays games specifically made for it in 56 vibrant colors.

According to *Popular Science* and *Newsday*, the existing library of 450 games is compatible with the new system, but the games will be displayed in only four to 10 hues.

Game Boy Color comes in a sturdy purple plastic case, sells in the US for \$75 to \$80 and is powered by two AA batteries. The advanced liquid crystal display screen is much larger than the monochrome one, and twice as much video RAM (random access memory) is there for storing more characters, background and color data.

It also offers four times as much work RAM, allowing for more elaborate games, a wireless infrared communications port to allow data transfer between color units, and a computer serial port for the Game Boy link cable, making it possible for several players to play against each other.

The hidden danger of high-current power lines

Earthly Concerns



By Dvora Ben Shaul

Last month, the National Institutes of Health (a US governmental agency that is responsible for, among other things, deciding what is or is not a health hazard) issued a statement saying that high-current electric lines are a possible cause of cancer and leukemia.

This did not come as a surprise to anyone who has followed the increasing number of research projects aimed at studying the reaction of human and animal cells to electromagnetic fields (EMFs).

EMFs are a non-ionizing radiation produced by high-current electric lines, electrical transformers, electric blankets and most household appliances.

In the case of household appliances, however, the strength of EMFs is generally so weak and the distance from the appliances

sufficiently great for these fields not to be considered hazardous. High-current power lines are another matter.

In 1979, two researchers in Denver named Wertheimer and Leeper reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that, according to a study they had conducted, children living within 50 meters of high-current electric lines and transformers were three times as likely to develop leukemia as children living in areas where these lines were not in such proximity.

Since that time, several dozen studies done in various parts of the world have confirmed these findings; most epidemiologists and many other researchers have been convinced for some time that EMFs are inimical to human health.

One such study showed that pet dogs living near these electric lines also had several times the incidence of lymphoma-type neoplasms.

But electric companies and politicians around the world have taken a stance of either outright denial or deliberate obfuscation, and they have spent a good deal of money lobbying both against government action to prevent human exposure to these lines and against any changes in safety standards set several decades ago.

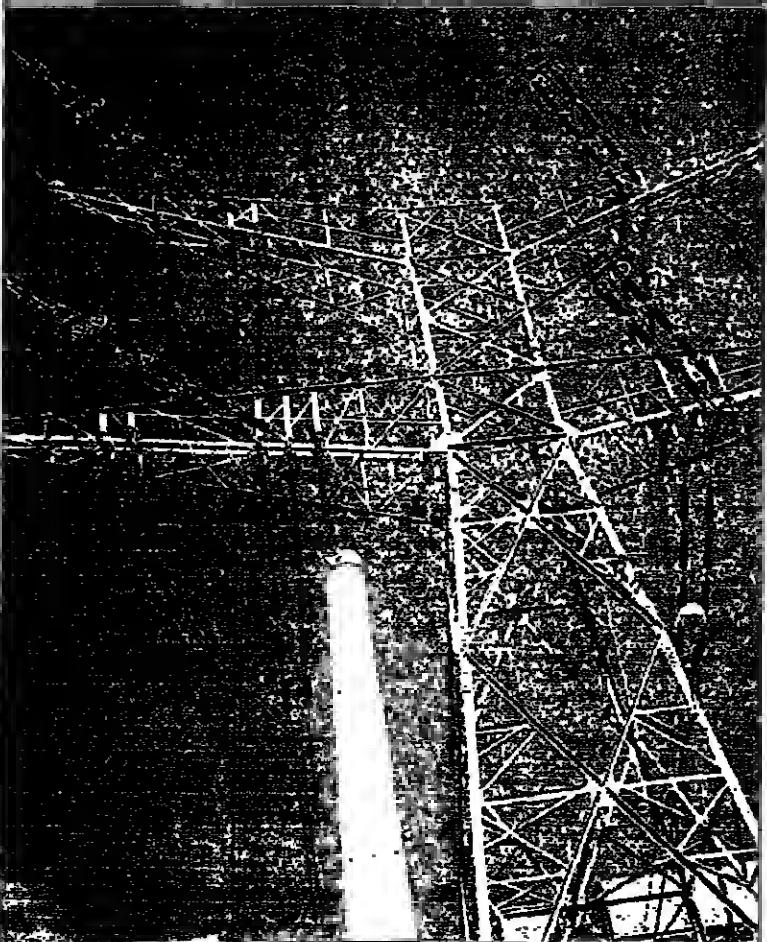
THE problem with these standards is that, up till about 20 years ago, they were set according to the findings of engineers; biologists were simply not consulted.

Engineers set the standards, based, for the most part, on thermal effects - the degree to which tissue got heated by the radiation - and not on other effects of EMFs on living tissue. These standards have remained as law.

The late Dr. Milton Gordon of Jerusalem, a pioneer in this field, called it "the English muffin standard: If it doesn't toast you, it won't hurt you."

Any drive along Israel's coastal or inland highways, especially south of Ma'agan Michael and north of Netanya, gives one a view of entire neighborhoods where these high-voltage power lines criss-cross the area, with both lines and transformers located less than 15 meters from the housing units.

One is forced to wonder how long it will take for the government and the Israel Electric Corporation to recognize the danger this poses to the people living in these neighborhoods.



High-current power lines: Inimical to human health. (David Rubinger)

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The year of looking back

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

Israeli music in 1998 was a mixed bag, caught between nostalgia and the first stirrings of a new sound.

From a sales perspective, the story of the year was the same as last year: Eyal Golan, Golan's goosy, sentimental (if very well-crafted) brand of Mizrahi pop dominated the charts almost all year, selling hundreds of thousands of albums and making him the biggest musical phenomenon of the decade.

The year was one of looking back. The jubilee celebrations put the whole country in a nostalgic mood. The members of Kaveret held one of their periodic reunions before thousands of fans at Hayarkon Park. Cover songs abounded on Israeli albums.

Meanwhile, younger listeners were introduced to bands of the 1960s and 1970s, such as Tamuz, thanks to the documentary series *End of the Orange Season*.

The other big trend was the convergence of Israeli rock with

Middle Eastern sounds. The fusion of rock and Mizrahi music, spearheaded by Ethnix and Tea Packs, continued at full steam. Ironically, this came against an acrimonious background of Sephardi-Ashkenazi tension, as Golan and Avihu Medina loudly (and somewhat unprovokedly) bad-mouthed their Ashkenazi colleagues.

Many rock artists turned to Arabic music for inspiration. Arabic singing and instrumentation began popping up all over the place, pointing to a new and interesting direction for Israeli music.

The following is one reviewer's choice of the 10 best albums of the year.

Eti Ankri and David D'or Live (Eti Ankri and David D'or)

Ankri and D'or made up one of the year's most engaging pairs, coming together for a concert tour late in the summer and a subsequent live album. Together with musical director Alon Olschick, they retooled their sound to incorporate *piyutim* and Arabic music.

Le'an Ne'elam Baruch Friedland ("Looking for Baruch Friedland") (The Doppler Effect)

A powerful song cycle about love and obsession. The mysterious Friedland shows a real talent for writing sweet tunes overlaid with vaguely sinister lyrics.

Ronnie Peterson and Friends (Ronnie Peterson)

Peterson, one of the premier session guitarists in Israel, gathered 10 of his pals, including Shalom Hanoch, Meir Ariel, and Ahinoam



Eti Ankri and David D'or make up 'one of the year's most engaging pairs.'

Nini, for his debut record. With Peterson's help, the friends come up with interesting, bluesy renditions of their own songs.

Hasmahot (Hasmahot)

The band hit it big with "Yehuda Yehuda," one of those great doozy anthems which seems to be on everyone's lips (and which serves to confuse grown-ups).

The rest of the debut album rises above the big single, thanks to the accordion magic of Vitaly

Podolski.

Pa'am Bahaim ("Once in a Lifetime") (Amir Lev)

Low-key, downbeat slices of life from one of the country's premier hangdog singer-songwriters.

Haklatot Aharonot ("Final Recordings") (Inbal Perlmutter)

A collection of demo tracks and songs left by Perlmutter, former lead singer of The Witches, following her tragic death. The album is quite rough, but the

songs are poignant and haunting, indicating a great career that could have been.

Negilat ("Touches") (Barry Sakharof)

The guitar god returns with an album combining hard-edged rock, dance, and Middle Eastern elements into a fiery postmodern mix: **Masmerim Venotot** ("Nails and Feathers") (Micha Sheerit)

The former Friends of Natasha member proved he could hold his

own as a solo musician with this debut album. Sheerit combines cutting lyrics with a driving sound and dense, often brilliant production.

Avoda Ivrit ("Hebrew Labor") (Various Artists)

Fifty Israeli artists, from Arik Lavi to Shabak Samech, cover their favorite Israeli songs, often with interesting results. The four-CD collection, inspired by the jubilee, has more than its fair share of

memorable singles.

While the album takes a look at Israel's musical past, it also provides a vivid snapshot of the state of the music scene today.

Masach Ashan ("Smoke Screen") (Ariel Zilber)

After an absence of six years, one of Israel's strangest and most brilliant musicians returned with an album heavily inspired by Arabic music. The moody title track is one of the best songs of the year.

A fascist's rise to power

By BARRY DAVIS

He was a dashing young man, brimming with drive, ambition, and even born "on the right side of the tracks" — Oswald Mosley was definitely going places. But, as Channel 1's new British mini-series *Mosley* shows, one can sometimes drive too far too fast.

The mood is set from the start — millions of Britons swamp the streets of London in spontaneous and delirious celebration of the end of World War I. No one appears to have a care in the world — except for a certain young Lieutenant Mosley. Rather than imbibing in the heady nectar of victory, he is seemingly the only person cognizant of the fact that millions of men have given their lives so that all the rest can enjoy the fruits.

"Most of my friends are dead, my right leg is an inch and a half shorter than the left, and it looks very much as if the idiots who led us into war in the first place are still ruling the roost," intones Mosley as he pledges to do something to change matters.

Mosley is a lavish production — the sort of aesthetically crafted period series which British TV seems to churn out with high frequency. Fans of such lauded seminal British productions as *Upstairs Downstairs* and *The Forsyte Saga* will be gratified to note that, as always, attention to detail was uppermost in the minds of the series' creators. Interiors are sumptuous and meticulously designed, while exterior shots make the most of the lush British countryside and imposing palatial seats of residence which, in the era in which the first episode is set, still provided the landed gentry with a comfortable roof over their gilded heads.

And it is the Establishment which is soon to feel the wrath of the angry young Mosley (Jonathan Cake). He hardly has time to trade in his khaki fatigues for a well-spun, expensive suit before he embarks upon a political career of great promise. As the youngest Conservative member of parliament, he employs his considerable



Oswald Mosley (Jonathan Cake) spearheads his 'troops.'

personal charm to woo constituents and win a landslide victory in the elections.

These same charms lead Mosley to many a conquest in an entirely different field, as a succession of society belles fall prey to his striking looks and silvery tongue. Conveniently, the woman he chooses as his lawful spouse just happens to be the daughter of the foreign secretary, one Lady Cynthia ("Cimmy") Curzon. Their wedding is the social event of the year — even attended by the queen — and the epithet "prime minister" seems destined to be adjoined to Mosley's name.

The storyline gathers momentum as we follow the aspiring young politician to the vestibule — if not the actual corridors — of

power. A weekend spent at the country seat of a wealthy industrialist seems to be just the ticket to set Mosley off in the right direction. However, an unbridled passion for his own brand of social justice soon lands him in hot water as he meets prime minister David Lloyd George, played by Welsh actor Windsor Davies.

At first, Davies appears to be a somewhat incongruous choice for such a serious role — he is most notable for his appearances in a string of farcical comedies in the Sixties and Seventies — but, with the help of his natural Welsh accent, he just about manages to play the part convincingly.

Jonathan Cake, on the other hand, appears to be a natural in the role of eponymous hero — portraying

the sensitive and brash aspects of Mosley's character with equal fluency.

Meanwhile, our hero marches ever onward and upward, charting his single-minded course toward the upper echelons of power in an imperial Britain he is determined to change. When Mosley rails against the older politicians and bureaucrats — claiming they are preventing Britain from maintaining its global supremacy — one of his lovers calms him, reminding him that Lloyd George was also once "a young man in a hurry."

But, while the Welshman climbed to the very pinnacle of the political anvil, Mosley is destined for a very different end.

Mosley, Channel 1, Sunday, 10:30 p.m.



By David Isaacson

THE BLUE NOTE YEARS

Various Artists (NMC)

In a German-made documentary screened at last year's Jerusalem Film Festival, some of Blue Note's alumni reminisce about the refusal of the label's founder, Alfred Lion, to countenance anything which didn't swing.

The massive, 60th anniversary 14-disc retrospective *The Blue Note Years* confirms Lion's outstanding judgment. From the eight-bar boogie-woogie of Albert Ammons and Meade "Lux" Lewis to the avant-garde sounds of the '60s, Blue Note developed a house style which owed almost as much to the fine taste of Lion and partner Francis Wolff as to the actual musicians.

The collection is divided into seven double-disc volumes, starting with *Boogie, Blues and Bop* (1939 to 1955), whose highlights include Sidney Bechet's quaint "Summertime" (a huge hit in 1940), and Clifford Brown's classic post-bop "Easy Living." The tragic Brown was one of several major players, including pianists Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Horace Silver and Herbie Hancock, discovered by Lion.

Volume II, *The Jazz Message* (1955 to 1960), covers Blue Note's finest hours, when the Jazz Messengers, led by drummer Art Blakey, were the house band. In its ever-changing permutations, the group established a whole new movement, retrieving the initiative from the West Coast cool jazz of Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker in the nick of time.

The Message was cool in that it was hip, not in the Californian sense of laid-back. Beyond their hard, fast playing, the Messengers took bop to new places. Where Charlie Parker solos tended to be frenetic assaults on virtuosity, the post-bop world featured longer, slower ensemble dynamics, or, in Silver's case, cheerful, blues-based spontaneity. Silver's "The Preacher" and "Senior Blues" join Coltrane's "Blue Train" and Cannonball Adderley's "Autumn Leaves" as the standouts on

Volume II.

Buoyed by the success of the Messengers, Lion signed a wonderful roster of musicians, including trumpeters Lee Morgan and Freddie Hubbard, and sax-



Pianist Herbie Hancock was a Blue Note regular.

men Lou Donaldson and Stanley Turrentine. Among the best samples of their work here are Morgan's deeply moving "I Remember Clifford" and Donaldson's characteristically bluesy "Blues Walk."

For all the popularity in the early '60s of Jimmy "The Sermon" Smith, you wouldn't think the organ could dominate a whole chapter. But Volume III, *Organ and Soul* (1956 to 1967), is surprisingly good. Baby Face Willette and Fred Jackson are hardly household names but look out for them if, like Lion, you like your music to swing. Elsewhere, the organ is usually best for punctuation, as when Lonnie Smith supports Donaldson on a groovy "Alligator Boogaloo."

Volume IV, *Hard Bop and Beyond* (1963 to 1967), introduces the seminal figure of Herbie Hancock. His 1964 "Cantaloupe Island" was a landmark comparable to the Messengers' "Moanin'." No pianist had laid down such simple rhythms with so much authority since Duke Ellington. Supported by the Miles rhythm section of Ron Carter and Tony Williams, Hancock created the grooviest of beats, over which

Hubbard blew a full, rich, optimistic trumpet.

Elsewhere, Volume IV moves from Dexter Gordon's tasty "Cheese Cake" to Wayne Shorter's "Footprints," which can't help but evoke the spirit of Miles Davis, again.

Volume V, *The Avant Garde* (1963 to 1967), will appeal only to hardcore free-formists and fans of Ornette Coleman and Cecil Taylor, though Andrew Hill contributes a couple of nice numbers.

There are some real gems on Volumes VI and VII (1975 to 1998). Foremost of these are covers of several titles included in earlier volumes, such as Renee Rosnes's "Song For My Father," Eliane Elias's "Una Mas" and, most notably, US3's funky, funky "Cantaloupe (Flip Fantasia)." Dianne Reeves's "Maiden Voyage" (another Hancock composition) shows that she's a singer who really should have a bigger reputation, while bands fronted by Jacky Terrasson and Marcus Printup are well worth checking out.

For all Blue Note's fame, it is not the greatest-ever jazz label — a distinction surely claimed by Verve — even when Silver and Hancock were in their prime, it lacked Impulse's cutting edge. The company was sold to Liberty in 1966, after which it suffered a long period in the doldrums. Blue Note was relaunched in 1985, but its output since then has been pretty meagre.

The set's 48-page photo book looks like a superior version of those glossy albums you get at stadium rock concerts, and the booklets which accompany each disc often read like public-relations copy.

But if you're a fan with NIS 1,000 to spare (\$223.97 in the US), you will undoubtedly love *The Blue Note Years*.

Rishon Lezion inaugurates its new concert hall

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

When Mendi Rodan waves his baton on Thursday evening to conduct the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion, the major question will be not how the orchestra plays, but how the orchestra sounds in its new home — the brand new Heichal Hatarbut in Rishon Lezion.

There has been a lot of talk about the new Rishon Lezion auditorium with its 1,000 seats — it's larger than the Tel Aviv Museum hall that seats 500 and smaller than the Mann Auditorium that seats 3,000. And it is expected to be a first-rate concert hall with as perfect

acoustics as can be found.

And space is so short in the greater Tel Aviv area that the place is booked solid for the next couple of months. Visitors from abroad include the marvellous Collegium Black singers from Japan, the Edfas Dance Theater from Greece and singer Alcega Protosali. Meanwhile local artists such as Ariel Zilber have already sung happily from its stage.

The art of acoustics has to do with the way the sound on the stage reaches the audience. Books have been written on the subject, music critics all over the world have had a lot to say about this matter, yet almost every new concert hall has to undergo some acoustic renovations

after a few months. Will this new hall face the same destiny?

In any case, the hall will offer the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion its first opportunity to play to a hometown audience in a decent auditorium.

On opening night, Mendi Rodan will lead the orchestra in an all-Beethoven program including *Consecration of the House Overture*, the Violin Concerto (soloist Ida Haendel), the concert aria "Ah Perfido" (soloist soprano Natalia Dercho) and the Fifth Symphony. Performances are this Thursday, and then January 9 and 10 at the new Heichal Hatarbut in Rishon Lezion at 8:30 p.m.

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הכרזה מן האולם

Blind massagers 'do what comes naturally'

For the first time ever, a group of legally blind Israelis are training as medical massage therapists, hoping to work at health funds, resorts and gyms. Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports

Eight out of 10 blind adults are unemployed, and most of the rest get minimal salaries answering telephones, working on assembly lines or performing other simple, repetitive tasks. Only a small minority are computer programmers, social workers or other well-trained professionals.

"Just because we can't see doesn't mean our brains don't function," declares Rafi Cohen, a 51-year-old visually impaired Jerusalemite. Cohen is taking part in the country's first course in medical massage for the blind and partially blind.

The 40-week, 600-hour course opened in October at the Wingate Institute for Physical Education near Netanya, after being initiated by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs' division for rehabilitation of the blind and the voluntary Migdal Or organization.

Cohen was one of the really lucky ones; he already has 15 years' experience as a medical massager, having taken complementary-medicine courses in the US and Europe and taught Eastern martial arts before he lost much of his sight to disease.

However, left with declining vision and no longer able to read, he was getting fewer and fewer private-clinic customers. He said he wanted to work for a salary and get the legitimacy of a government-

recognized professional certificate. Cohen and the other 13 participants in the Wingate course were selected from among 400 initial applicants and 100 finalists after doing well in interviews and various qualifying tests.

"There are professional medical massage courses [for the blind] in Germany, France, Sweden and other countries, but this is the first attempt in Israel," says Dr. Reuven Metran, who has been a Wingate physiotherapist for 30 years and heads its school for coaches and instructors.

He is in charge of the program, along with course directors Dr. Alex Bilkevitch and Yasmín Bornstein of Migdal Or.

The course's full NIS 25,000 cost per student is covered mostly by the ministry, the General Custodian's office and donations, but the students themselves pay about NIS 1,000 a month in tuition and expenses.

WINGATE had to purchase expensive equipment for the course, and Metran notes that it took a bit of time for the lecturers to get used to the fact that their students couldn't see them.

"They had to learn to explain things better, in a way that could be understood by students who couldn't grasp visual explanations; they also had to make the

tests oral for totally blind students. They save frontal lectures on tapes or use Braille devices."

The participants get a heavy dose of theoretical material — the basics of anatomy, pathology, orthopedics, rehabilitation, dermatology, pharmacology and other disciplines — each from a Wingate expert in the field. Then there is intensive practical training using a mannequin and, later, human "guinea pigs."

They study eight hours a day two days in a row, staying over at a local hotel. Most travel to and from the Wingate campus by taxi, as coming by several buses is too difficult for them to manage. More than a third are Jerusalemites.

"Medical massage is a natural field for the blind," Metran notes. "Many of them, especially those who have been sightless for many years, compensate by having very sensitive hands. That's a boon for medical massage therapy."

COHEN'S fellow students regard him as the "star" of the course because of his years of experience in shiatsu, karate, Chinese medicine, massage and even computers.

His last salaried job was at a community center in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood two years ago, and since then he has treated some patients at his own private clinic for NIS 160 an hour. But seeking patients on his own has become increasingly difficult.

"I am legally, but not totally, blind. I get around without a dog or a stick — but I can't read."

Married, a father of four and grandfather of three, Cohen organized transport for the Jerusalemites in the course and knows his way around the campus.

"I studied karate at Wingate as a young man; so I felt at home," he recalls. "Still, I still have a lot to



The blind are a boon to the field, since they develop extra-sensitive hands to compensate for their sightlessness: Course director Dr. Alex Bilkevitch (in striped shirt) shows a blind student the most effective way to apply what he has learned.

learn about medical massage. There were things I had forgotten, and new things have been discovered since I first studied the theory. But I can easily point out where each of the bones and muscles in the body are."

Cohen says medical massage is very useful for treating migraine headaches, lower back pains,

sprains and fractures after injuries, stomachaches, knee pains and even depression in women after delivery.

"Massage therapy of ligaments can take five sessions to complete, while damaged knees take twice as long. Depression and relaxation take the longest."

Cohen is very grateful to the ministry and to Migdal Or for ini-

tiating the course, but he would like Israel to adopt more of Western society's openness to the disabled and its willingness to accept their talents.

"The blind can be as good at medical massage as the sighted — or even better because their other senses are generally sharper," he says.

SANDY Prucz, a 45-year-old resident of Hod Hasharon, has been blind for four years and says he still hasn't developed extra sensitivity in his hands. But the Romanian-born dentist, who became totally blind after head surgery, was nevertheless chosen to take part in the exclusive course, which he learned about from his social worker.

"Just a few months after I became blind I began taking courses in social work at Tel Aviv University, but I found it very difficult so soon after losing my sight."

"I have a good background in physiology, anatomy and pharmacology, but I had no experience in the physical part of medical massage," Prucz says. He has not learned Braille, and so has to tape every lecture.

"In Romania, many medical massage therapists are blind," he says. "I really enjoy the course. The lecturers are first class, and it's a challenge."

Still, Prucz's participation in the course is a financial burden. His monthly National Insurance Institute disability allotment is, he disclosed with some cynicism, only NIS 1,500. So he is depending on outside help to cover tuition and expenses.

Despite the students' great investment in time and money, the ministry has not guaranteed graduates a workplace next year.

But Yossi Corcia, director of the ministry's division for rehabilitation of the blind, says there is considerable demand for certified medical massage specialists in health funds, resorts, hotels and gyms.

"We will do everything we can to match up graduates and potential employers," he adds. The ministry hopes potential employers will not be deterred by the graduates' disability, and that all of them will be employed in the field a year from now.

Viruses victorious in 'cold war'

By SEAN O'NEILL and AISLING BRYAN

It has taken a decade of painstaking research by a Cardiff University professor to discover what the rest of us thought we already knew — that there is no cure for the common cold.

A decade after the opening of the Common Cold Center at the university, Prof. Ron Eccles says the condition is "impossible to cure."

He and his team will now devote their energies to finding the means to prevent colds and minimize the symptoms.

"Our trouble is that there are at least 200 viruses that cause the common cold," Eccles says.

"It is not just one disease. Even if a cure for one were found, it would soon be redundant. People would then be susceptible to hundreds of other viruses waiting to invade."

"I don't think the public appreciates the magnitude of the problem we have been faced with this last decade."

Eccles, an international authority in the physiology and pharmacology of the nose, marked the 10th anniversary of his research center by unveiling a 60-centimeter-high model of a rhinovirus — a family of viruses responsible for 30% to 40% of common colds.

The virus is extremely small, and the model was constructed by X-ray and computer imaging; 50,000 viruses could occupy a line one millimeter long.

If a rhinovirus was the size of Eccles's model, the human nose would be the size of Britain.

Shaped like a 20-sided golf ball, the rhinoviruses attach themselves to the cells lining the nose in the way a small spaceship might dock with a mother craft.

Once attached, the rhinovirus hijacks the cells and begins producing thousands of new viruses, which are spread to others by coughs and sneezes.

Eccles called the cold was "the most prevalent disease to affect mankind."

On any one day, 50 million people around the world are suffering from colds. In a lifetime lasting 75 years, the average human will suffer 200 bouts of cold, each lasting between five and six days.

Three years of each lifetime are spent suffering from colds.

Undaunted by the inability to eliminate the cold, Eccles believes there is hope that humans can combat it through prevention.



A-a-a... choo! On average, three years of each lifetime are spent suffering from colds. (Sarit Uziel)



"Cold viruses are around all the time; we succumb to them when our immune systems are down and we are under stress. There is a lot of interest in the counteracting effects of zinc and vitamin C at the moment. It may be that we can change our lifestyle and diet, making those miserable colds just a mere runny nose and slight sore throat."

It was the Americans, during World War II, who triggered the idea that science might be able to defeat the common cold. They sent 100 scientists and an assortment of prefabricated buildings to Britain, to be assembled into a laboratory that would study ways of combating infectious diseases among the troops.

When the war ended, the modest set of huts was handed over to the government, which turned them into the Common Cold Research Unit.

"They thought they would find a cure in six months," said Malcolm Stacey, author of *Atchoo: All You Need to Know About the Common Cold*. "But in fact they found about

200 different diseases."

The enterprise made painfully little progress against the tiny enemy, despite the fact that Britishers took hundreds of free holidays at the unit in return for infection with the virus and the donation of nose swabs to the scientists.

Researchers did discover that each virus has a signature set of symptoms: There are viruses that specialize in a runny nose, viruses that attack the throat, viruses so mild as to be unnoticeable.

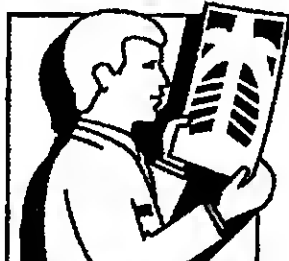
Some unnoticed infections could, nevertheless, make people clumsier and more forgetful than usual.

Some scientists divided the viruses into five categories, the major group containing viruses almost as debilitating as influenza. Others claimed that we are all infected with the cold virus — which springs into action only when the immune defenses are down.

But the government deemed these discoveries far from the goal of curing the common cold and refused to continue funding the unit. It closed in 1992. (The Daily Telegraph)

Careless antibiotic use creates hardy 'superbugs'

Health Scan



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Bacteria that have become resistant to antibiotics continue to withstand the drugs for a long time after their use has been halted.

This is the surprising finding of Prof. Bruce Levine, a biologist at Emory University in Atlanta, who will discuss bacterial resistance at a Ben-Gurion University conference on theoretical and mathematical biology this week.

Levine examined bacteria he collected from dirty diapers in a US day-care center. He found that a quarter of the *Escherichia*

patients stop taking prescribed antibiotics prematurely — before the drugs have completely wiped out the microbes; this causes stronger bacteria to survive and multiply into microbes that can't be defeated by antibiotics.

Resistance also results when people take antibiotics for viral infections, which are not affected by antibiotics. The overuse of antibiotics around the world in recent decades has caused many types of bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics.

This finding countered the common belief that when people stopped using types of antibiotics that had lost their effectiveness against bacteria, the antibiotic would regain that effectiveness after a "rest period."

Levine's worrisome discovery seems to indicate that the pharmaceutical industry will have to develop new, usually more expensive and powerful antibiotics.

The conference, to be held at BGU's Blaustein Desert Research Institute at Sede Boker, will be chaired by Tel Aviv University Prof. Zvia Agor, who is president of the Israel Society for Theoretical and Mathematical Biology.

Agor says that the field of biomathematics has recently advanced greatly in Israel, thanks to the knowledge brought by Russian immigrants.

TB AND FOREIGNERS

Foreign workers, mostly illegal ones, who suffer from tuberculosis come to voluntary clinics for antibiotic treatment — and then disappear instead of continuing to get the medication required to wipe out the disease. This was revealed recently by

Rami Adut of the Israel Physicians for Human Rights organization, which runs a free medical clinic for foreign workers in Tel Aviv.

This is dangerous not only for TB patients, Adut said, but for society as a whole, since failure to complete antibiotic treatment can make existing TB strains resistant to the drugs.

Adut was speaking before the Knesset's special committee on foreign workers, chaired by MK Yitzhak Cohen, which met to discuss an outbreak of TB among foreign workers in Ashkelon.

Cohen said he got the impression that some companies, such as the Israel Electric Corporation and Hyundai, have dealt quickly and suitably with the problem among its workers, but he noted that TB continues to spread among other laborers, largely because the illegals lack medical care.

Labor MK Ophir Paz-Pines said it was a "scandal" that a bill to give foreign workers coverage under the National Health Insurance Law had gotten stuck in the Labor and Social Affairs Committee.

Cohen said that in 1998, 572 TB cases among foreign workers and new immigrants were reported to the Health Ministry.

The ministry operates special TB clinics that ask patients to come in regularly to take the "cocktail" of antibiotics in the presence of staffers, but unless they take all the doses over a period of months, they will not be cured and can continue to be infectious.

The committee will soon visit Ashkelon to see the living conditions of foreign workers firsthand and study the TB problem, Cohen said.

Guts are the glory of Washington's military medical museum

By DENNIS O'NEILL

It's a museum of the macabre. The National Museum of Health and Medicine is a national display case with enough bullet-riddled skulls and bones to fascinate both schoolboy and historian: the bullet that killed Lincoln, the leg a general lost at Gettysburg, the saws used by Civil War surgeons to hack off limbs.

The US Army began collecting maimed body parts in 1862 to document and study the damage inflicted by combat and disease in the Civil War. At the time, they were seen as teaching tools.

"This was before the X-ray, before all the advances in cellular biology and DNA, when the best way to understand the effects of disease or trauma was to see the whole specimen," explains museum curator Paul Sledzik.

Called the Army Medical Museum, it began as a storehouse for the collection. Its first home was the Washington office of surgeon-general William Hammond, who ordered army physicians to collect "all specimens of morbid anatomy, surgical or medical, which may be regarded as valuable; together with projectiles and foreign bodies removed."

The result is a mix of gore, history and anatomy.

In one glass display case lies the bullet-riddled hip bone of Maj. Gen. Henry Barium of the 12th New York regiment. Shot at Malvern Hill, Virginia, on July 1, 1862, Barium survived to be captured, released in an exchange of prisoners and then wounded in two other battles before the war ended. He died decades later, at 65, of pneumonia, and his hip bone was donated to the museum.

Not so lucky was Cpl. G.W. Stone of Massachusetts, who was shot in the head at Fredericksburg in 1862, the bullet lodging behind his left eye. He survived, complaining only of "slight headaches" for two months before he fell into a fever and died from complications.

Here is the leg bone of Union Gen. Daniel Sickles, who invited a Confederate attack by moving his troops out beyond the main defensive line at Gettysburg without telling his superiors.

Sickles survived the loss of his lower right leg, and would later show it off by taking visitors to see it at the museum. It is mounted next to a 12-pound cannon ball similar to the one that blasted through it.

"Knowing what these doctors were up against, it's a wonder anyone survived," says Dr. Frank Freeman, a Nashville, Tenn.,

neurologist and the author of a book on Civil War medicine titled *Gangrene and Glory*.

Surviving a gunshot, Freeman says, depended on where a soldier was wounded. Amputation was the treatment of choice for gunshots, and a soldier shot in the foot had a better chance than one shot in the knee. A shot in the wrist was better than a wound in the elbow.

"The higher up on the limb the wound was, the worse off you did," says Freeman.

PERHAPS the most significant medical advance during the war, he suggests, was improved evacuation hospitals. When the war began, surgeons were required to treat only men from their assigned regiments. Outdated military regulations assigned regimental musicians to remove wounded from battlefields.

But by the end of the war, a system of field hospitals was established, with tents, barns, churches and houses near the battlefields being used. Special troops were organized and trained to recover the wounded from combat.

Freeman says the big killer during the war wasn't bullets but disease. Poor hygiene, inadequate diet, crowded camps and unseasoned troops fostered diseases like typhoid that caused roughly two of every three fatalities, killing about 400,000 soldiers.

George Wunderlich, a history teacher who has been lecturing in a college on Civil War medicine for a decade, says one popular misconception is that doctors of that era routinely performed amputations while soldiers were conscious.

They may have been in some

cases, but most of the 30,000 amputations were performed by army surgeons on patients put to sleep with ether or chloroform.

Amputations took an average of six minutes. "You had to work fast," Wunderlich says, "because after a battle there were so many soldiers to work on."

NOT everything in the museum is Civil War-related. In the 1970s, it was given a collection of remains from the New York City medical examiner's office.

On show from that collection are the cigarette-damaged lungs of a life-long smoker and the esophagus of a New York City man who choked to death on his dentures, which remain intact in the throat.

Displays explain HIV infection and the Spanish-American War. There is a baseball removed from the stomach of a 12-year-old girl

who ate her hair, and a human brain floating in formaldehyde with the spinal cord attached. A tree-trunk sized leg belonged to a Buffalo, NY, man with elephantiasis.

The museum itself has had a checkered history, having been moved around, shrunk in size and starved for funds. In its early years it was located in Ford's Theater; it relocated six times before reopening in 1971 at Walter Reed Hospital.

These days, the museum gets about 60,000 visitors a year, mostly students on school-sponsored tours or people interested in the Civil War or in the history of medical advances.

Sledzik says the place "tries to walk a line between the educational and the tasteless. We try to make it so people learn something when they come here."

(The Baltimore Sun)

Let's make a deal

Tel Aviv attorney Leon Fine points out four major differences between real estate transactions in Israel and abroad and offers six tips for a successful deal

Real estate transactions in most countries are complex and often bewildering. This is especially so for Americans and Israelis abroad who believe that Israel is "just like the US."

This couldn't be farther from the truth.

While many aspects of jurisprudence in the two countries have their origin in the Common Law of England, real estate law and procedures in the two countries are quite different. Here are some important examples to be aware of.

Land

About 90 percent of the land in Israel is owned by the Israeli government and is administered by the Israel Lands Administration (ILA) on its behalf. National land is situated mainly in suburban, rural, and unsettled areas, such as the Negev desert. In the Haifa/Tel Aviv/Askelon megalopolis, many properties are privately owned.

Acquiring rights from the ILA means, in effect, a long-term lease (usually 49 years) with an option to renew for a similar period. The lessee must pay the ILA an annual lease levy. Recently there has been a tendency to amortize this tax so

that it is paid in advance for the entire period. Transfer of rights in leased realty is subject to ILA consent, which is almost always granted, as well as a payment of a "transfer approval" levy. These procedures do not apply to disposition of private land.

In the US and other Anglo-Saxon jurisdictions, on the other hand, land is generally "fee simple," which means absolute, private ownership. Purchasers buy and sell real estate individually or as "co-tenants" whereby several parties, usually a married couple, acquire rights as tenants in common or joint tenants. Upon the death of one of the former, his/her share passes to the decedent's beneficiaries or, in the absence of a will, to the heirs at law. Under joint tenancy, the share of a partner who passes away is transferred automatically to the surviving spouse.

Ownership

"Title" is the magic word in Anglo-American countries. It is the term for the legal proof that an owner or purchaser of land, a house, or an apartment is in lawful possession and entitled to other rights, such as the right of sale, mortgage, lease, gift, and inheritance.

In the US, title is confirmed by a deed of sale. There are three main types: "Full covenant" or "general warranty" deed, the most comprehensive form, which guarantees the recipient that the title is clear. "Bargain and sale deed with covenant against grantor's acts," in which the grantor of rights limits the warranty of title to persons claiming through or under the grantor, but not against title defects arising from conditions pre-existing his or her acquisition of rights and "quit claim deed," which offers the greatest risk, means "you get only what I got."

There is a uniform "deed of sale" in Israel for privately owned land or, in the cases of leasehold land transactions, the "deed of lease."

In Israel, after a deed is recorded at the Land Registry Office in favor of a good-faith purchaser, it is valid and binding against all claims. Transfer of rights evidenced by a government registry in the US exists only in a few states.

In Israel, rights to much — but not all — real estate is determined at the Land Registry Office, still affectionately known as "Tabu" as it was called during Turkish (Ottoman) rule.

A good part of the land in Israel is divided into blocks and lots, and registry of rights at the Tabu — whether by sale, gift, inheritance, or encumbrances (mortgages, liens, etc.) — is almost always final. Leasehold rights are registered at the ILA.

There is an alternative form of registration in Israel for some apartment buildings constructed on land not yet parcelized or registered at the Tabu. Authorized building companies maintain a registry of rights somewhat similar to that at the Tabu.

Proof of ownership

In Israel, registry at the Tabu (but not necessarily registry at an authorized construction company) is the last word, except for the rare, successful decision otherwise by a court. In the US there are at least four different methods to determine who owns what: title insurance; certificate of title; abstract of title; and certificate of registration.

Title insurance is issued by an insurance company. It insures only against defects disclosed in public records and not unrecorded rights. A certificate of title is a legal opinion submitted by a title examiner confirming title, pursuant to his/her examination of all public records. Like title insurance, it

offers no protection to a purchaser against undisclosed ("latent") defects. The insurance company, attorney providing the certificate is liable for damages only for negligence in its preparation.

A title abstract is a written summary of public records showing the chronological history of ownership, commencing with the original government grant of land. An abstractor does not insure or guarantee clear title and, like the title examiner, is liable only for errors made. Only the certificate of registration under the Torrens system provides irrefutable evidence of title, like registration at the Tabu.

Closing

This climactic Anglo-American real estate procedure does not exist in Israel. Rarely is a single payment made on any specific date in exchange for transfer of all rights to the buyer, as in the closing. In Israel, the purchase price is paid in installments at critical events: the "binder," the optional "memorandum of sale," signing of the sales contract; transfer of possession of the property to the purchaser; transfer of an irrevocable power of attorney from the seller; confirmation by the real estate tax authorities of payments or exemption from taxes imposed on the sale; registry of rights at the ILA and/or Tabu or at an authorized construction company.

The bottom line is clear: buying, selling, leasing, and sometimes even renting in Israel are complicated procedures fraught with potential challenges and pitfalls.

Here are some practical tips that can make your real estate transaction more successful and less traumatic.

Verify

Don't make any written or oral commitment until the seller/lessor or their representatives confirm their right to enter the proposed transaction. For starters, this usually requires a current abstract from the Tabu or an authorized building company registry. Let your lawyer tell you what is needed.

Easy does it

Getting things done in any new or foreign country requires constant adjustments. You may encounter some surprises large and small, pleasant and otherwise. It is better to do things and make decisions more slowly than you do back home.

English

Learning Hebrew and speaking it with everyone is usually solid advice for a newcomer who wants to become a real Israeli. The major

exception is in business, where you should stick to your own language. Make sure everything (especially contracts) is explained and translated for you. There is a legal presumption that you understand what you sign, and misunderstandings can prove costly.

Prudence

As the Israeli saying goes, "Show respect, but be wary." Have a knowledgeable friend or, better yet, a building inspection service/architect/engineer examine the property to see that it conforms to representations and to your expectations. Caution is the way to go, since you will be dependent on many others. This is true particularly when choosing a broker, attorney, or anyone to whom you give power of attorney. Check out the professionalism and integrity of anyone who will be representing you.

Costs

Before you buy or sell, ask yourself: "Can I handle all the additional direct and indirect expenses?" There may be a lot of taxes in your transaction: realty purchase tax (new immigrant buyers and others may be entitled to an exemption or a discount); betterment tax (Israel's equivalent of capital gains tax); property tax; and municipal improvement levy.

Find out which, if any, will be imposed and how much the buyer/seller has to pay.

VAT (value added tax), currently 17%, is added to the price of a new apartment, house, or commercial property. There are ILA charges: bank commissions (for currency conversion and mortgage registration); registry fees at the Tabu and building companies' registries; broker and lawyer fees; disbursements and possibly more.

Patience

By now, even optimistic readers may agree that keeping cool may be a critical factor. You will have to deal with the other party, lawyers, government, municipal and tax authorities, Tabu, banks and assorted characters. Not everybody speaks your language or will be your cup of tea. Sometimes being fair and pleasant may not be enough. Things happen, and problems crop up, even when you think they shouldn't.

If so, this is when you should remember Fine's Rule and "VEEPCE" your way to a successful real estate transaction.

An edited version of this article appeared in the December 25 edition of The Jerusalem Post Magazine. It is reprinted here in its entirety.



A French post office employee presents the first stamps in euros and francs destined for the euro zone. (Reuters)

Preparations for euro trade proceed smoothly

LONDON (Reuters) — Mammoth preparations for the start of trading tomorrow in Europe's single currency progressed with few hitches yesterday, with banks and exchanges saying adjustments to computer systems were on schedule.

As thousands of workers across Europe continued to spend the New Year weekend redenominating trillions of dollars of stocks and bonds into euros, the European Central Bank (ECB) said the changeover was proceeding well.

"Everything is running according to plan," said ECB spokesman Manfred Koerber. The central bank is now in charge of monetary policy for the 11 nations that launched the euro on Friday in an effort to foster economic growth and create a strong rival for the dollar.

The conversion workload has been "relieved" in London, Europe's foreign exchange trading center, where an estimated 30,000 people were expected to be in the office through the weekend. Banks need to be ready by tomorrow's market debut in Asia, which will be this evening London time.

Many banks in London and elsewhere in Europe said their preparations were on schedule, if not ahead, and that trading in

the euro so far looked likely to start smoothly.

An official at Britain's banking regulator, the Financial Services Authority, said staff were on standby this weekend to help banks with any problems, but none had emerged so far.

The Bank of England, which despite Britain's non-participation in the euro is closely involved because of London's trading status, said institutions and firms were reporting a smooth transition.

There were rumors of technical problems at the Milan stock exchange, but these were denied by the Bank of Italy, which said the changeover was running to schedule.

German stock exchange operator Deutsche Boerse AG said its conversion was almost complete and the Association of German Banks also said the process was on track.

A spokesman said the association was receiving a lot of queries, predominantly from older citizens who were worried about their money and scared of a currency depreciation.

Many shops are allowing consumers to pay in euros using cheques or credit cards, but cash transactions will continue in local currencies until euro coins and notes are launched in 2002.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for):	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.820
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (31.12.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY	SELL	BANKNOTES	BUY	SELL	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	4.5199	4.5922	—	—	—	—	4.5588
U.S. dollar	4.1247	4.1913	4.05	4.25	4.1800	—	—
German mark	2.4621	2.5019	2.41	2.54	2.4823	—	—
Pound sterling	6.8429	6.9533	6.72	7.05	6.9216	—	—
French franc	0.7341	0.7480	0.72	0.76	0.7402	—	—
Japanese yen (100)	3.5933	3.6799	3.55	3.74	3.6546	—	—
Dutch florin	2.1654	2.2207	2.14	2.26	2.2031	—	—
Swiss franc	2.9929	3.0412	2.94	3.09	3.0148	—	—
Swedish krona	0.5075	0.5157	0.49	0.53	0.5126	—	—
Norwegian krona	0.5423	0.5511	0.53	0.56	0.5470	—	—
Danish krone	0.6465	0.6570	0.63	0.67	0.6529	—	—
Finnish mark	0.6101	0.6232	0.79	0.84	0.6167	—	—
Canadian dollar	2.6633	2.7063	2.61	2.75	2.6868	—	—
Australian dollar	2.5264	2.5972	2.48	2.61	2.5528	—	—
S. African rand	0.7028	0.7140	0.63	0.72	0.7081	—	—
Belgian franc (10)	1.1939	1.2132	1.17	1.23	1.2034	—	—
Austrian schilling (10)	3.4999	3.5584	3.43	3.61	3.5283	—	—
Italian lira (1000)	2.4878	2.5277	2.44	2.57	2.5084	—	—
Jordanian dinar	5.7932	5.8866	5.69	6.11	5.8856	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.17	1.27	1.2376	—	—
ECU	4.6183	4.6961	—	—	4.6553	—	—
Irish punt	6.1149	6.2136	6.01	6.30	6.1680	—	—
Spanish peseta (100)	2.8839	2.9406	2.84	2.99	2.9185	—	—

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

ILANOT ILAN

MUTUAL FUND FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

"ILANOT ILAN" MUTUAL FUND FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS - NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF THE PROSPECTUS
Notification is hereby given in accordance with Section 31.2.2 of the Joint Investments Trust Law 5754 - 1994 in the matter of publication of the prospectus as follows:

AN OFFERING TO THE PUBLIC OF

an unlimited number of Units of 100 US Dollars per unit each, are being offered at varying Unit Prices determined by the Fund Manager pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 and 5 of the Prospectus, which will include a premium not exceeding 1.5% on any trading day, as defined in the Joint Investment Trust Regulations (Purchasing and Selling Prices of the Assets of a Fund and Value of a Fund's Assets) 5755 - 1994 (usually Mondays to Thursdays), commencing from 8.30 A.M. Israel time on January 3, 1999, until 2.00 P.M. Israel time on December 31, 1999. For restrictions on the offering of units to specific foreign residents, see Section 2 of the Prospectus. For restrictions on the transfer of units in the Fund see Section 24 of the Prospectus.

The Fund Manager is authorized to open, in whole or in part from time to time, the investment policy without the authorization of a meeting of the Fund's Unit Holders.

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Amnon, 9 Leif Yaffe, 673-1901; Balsam, Salati e-Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Alkawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2025.

Tel Aviv: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Givrol, 546-2040; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730.

Ramatana-Kfar Sava: Superpharm, 3 Oshinsky, Kfar Sava, 765-6588.

Netanya: Netanya, 11 Herzl, 882-2842.

Haifa: Superpharm, 2 Khoury, 051-582021.

Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevalim, 122 Dorech Akko, Krayot Blauk, 878-7816.

Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Ma'aket (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903.

Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Matl, 657-0468, Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Sheara Zedek (Internal, orthopedics, obstetrics, ENT); Bikur Holim (surgery); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics, ophthalmology).

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center; Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).

Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100

FIRE 102

FIRST AID 101

Help line for English-speakers - Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-1111.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9111.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 02-581-0303 (Arabic 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (child-recovery 546-0739); Rishon LeZion 03-956-6612; Haifa 04-567-2222.

4332, Netanya 09-882-6110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 858-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 04-834-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-2222).

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-57445, 24-hour services, confidentiality guaranteed.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0508.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours): Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (man); Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533.

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THE JERUSALEM POST 100 DAYS SPECIAL TOURISM ADVERTISING

Where to stay in Israel

GALILEE
NES ANJIN Kibbutz Hotel - This uniquely European village in the Galilee, offers Hotel, Hotel and apartment situated in beautiful botanical gardens. Delicious kosher food. Book one of our "Classical weekend musical packages" Tel: 04-685 0038, Fax: 04-685 0098.

GALILEE - UPPER
KIBBUTZ HOTEL Kfar Giladi - 180 air-conditioned rooms, all with shower, bath, telephone, radio, and TV, kosher cuisine, outdoor & indoor heated swimming pools, sport & health club. Tel: 06-680 0000, Fax: 06-680 0069.

AIR-CONDITIONED ROOMS, near the sources of the Jordan, and the Golan Heights. Tel: 08-684 3012, Fax: 08-684 1274, Fax: 08-684 4767, Fax: 08-684 7119.

GOLAN HEIGHTS
MOTEL GOLSHI HAHERMON - Sagron Family Neve Aviv - 08-698 1591, 050-246 540. The closest place to the ski resort, with all conveniences, comfortable atmosphere and full Israeli breakfast. Special package deal during the ski season.

JERUSALEM
ADDAR SUITE HOTEL - New luxurious suite hotel, located in the heart of Jerusalem. Each suite has its own balcony, satellite television, two telephone extensions, equipped kitchenette, Jacuzzi bedroom. Tel: 02-6263111 Fax: 02-6260791

ALON HOLIDAY APARTMENTS - new 5 star studios, in the very center of Jerusalem, air conditioned, kitchenette, private telephone, top design, completely furnished. Tel: 02-625-0002, Fax: 02-625-0008. E-mail: alon@o-nh.com

LEV YERUSHALAYIM HOTEL - centrally located on King George Street, suites available one or 2 bedrooms plus living room, kitchenette, dining area, sleeps up to six very competitive rates. Glatt Kosher restaurants, health club, sauna & Jacuzzi. Tel: 02-586 1881 or 071-1886, Fax: 02-586-4372, e-mail: koplano@internet-zshv.net

MOUNT ZION HOTEL - next to Old City; family plan; Restaurants, Coffeshop, Bar, Healthclub, all large Citadel rms face Old City - WOW! Internet: www.mountainzion.co.il Tel: 02-586 9555, Fax: 02-673 1425, e-mail: hotel@mountzion.co.il

PIZGAT SHOSHAN - beautiful new apartment hotel. The perfect place to enjoy nature and visit Jerusalem. Two bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen, fully finished, A/C, TV, phone. Special deal for long stays. Tel: 02-6340225, Fax: 02-6340222, e-mail: info@shoshan.co.il

TIMES SQUARE RESIDENCE - On Jabotinsky Street, near the major hotels. Luxurious apartments, 2 and 5 rooms, fully equipped, kosher kitchens. Tel: 02-561-1236, Fax: 02-561-1236

RAMOT 2 PRIVATE - Pleasant, fully furnished 2-room apartment w/garden. (Linen provided). Country setting. Magnificent forest view. Convenient transportation. Affordable daily/weekly prices. Tel: 02-586 5573, e-mail: rosh@shahar.net

JORDAN VALLEY
AFKEI NOFESH KIBBUTZ AFKIM - Vacation apartments & rooms. Kosher cuisine. 3 minutes from the Kinneret. Special offer for November: Sun-Thurs: 95 NIS, Weekend: 120 NIS. Prices per person per room. Tel: 06-6754150/1 Fax: 06-6754151

NETANYA
MIZPE YAM HOTEL - situated on the Mediterranean, 35 rooms all with bath, toilet, air-conditioned, telephone, TV, video & radio in every room, dining room, kosher, intimate bar, elevator, sun terrace on the roof, parking, family atmosphere. Tel/Fax: 08-882 3730.

SDOT YAM - CAESAREA
KEF YAM - Mediterranean Tourism offers a dream vacation which includes: Holiday apartments, private beach, glass bottom boat, archaeology, tarmac boat. Call for reservations: 06-636444/70, Fax: 06-636 2211. www.kef-yam.co.il

TEL AVIV
LAGURI BAYR - luxurious apartments in the center of Tel Aviv near Dizengoff Center. Studio apartments for 2-3 people including a kitchenette, air-conditioning & cable TV. 138 Dizengoff St., Tel Aviv Tel: 03-527 2596 Fax: 03-524 7053

TIBERIAS
SCOTTISH GUEST HOUSE - Centre of Tiberias. Historic and beautiful buildings in lovely gardens. All rooms private facilities and air conditioning. Special rates during December & January. Tel: 06-6723769, Fax: 06-6790145

ZICHRON YAA'COV
BET NAJMON - A small family-run hotel. All rooms air-conditioned with telephone & TV. Its famous Casa Barone restaurant serves home-cooked meals on the picturesque terrace. Fax: 08-639 8542, Tel: 08-629 0380, e-mail: njajmon@pobox.com

Spa Resorts in Israel

DEAD SEA
NIRVANA - All rooms overlooking the Dead Sea. Private beach, stylish and intimate health club. Spa treatments include Mud Wraps, Massage, Thalasotherapy, Beauty treatments. Tel: 07-658 4628.

Where to Eat

JERUSALEM
ANGELO RISTORANTE ITALIANO - Frommer's 1998 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. Kosher Dairy. Outstanding business lunch 12-5 p.m. NIS 35. 9 Harkness St. Closed Friday. For reservations. Tel: 02-623 8035.

DARNA - "Our home is your home." Authentic Moroccan Hospitality. KOSHER. Business lunch, salads, couscous, dessert, traditional mint tea. Only NIS 69 with this ad. Open 12:00-3:00 p.m., 6:00-midnight. 3 Harkness St. Tel: 02-624 5406.

EUCALYPTUS - The taste of Israel from Biblical Days. Rave reviews! Excellent meat, fish & vegetarian dishes enhanced by a masterful use of herbs and spices. Lunches on special. Kosher. NEW ADDRESS: 4 Kfar Saba (City Hall Complex). Tel: 02-624 4331.

HECHAL SHLOMO - RESTAURANT/CATERERS serving you the best, freshest, most delicious food in an exclusive environment. Functions for up to 150. Brit Milahs, Bar Mitzvahs, 7 Branches, special occasions, 58 King George St., Glatt Koshermeat. Tel: 02-622 9312.

MARVAD HAKSAMON ORIENTAL RESTAURANT - Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food; Kosher/meat Open for lunch & dinner 11:00 p.m., Sun-Thurs. Fri. 3:00 p.m. 16 King George St., (next to Carvel). Tel: 02-625 4470.

NORMAN'S STEAKN BURGER - Freshest burgers, steaks, ribs, chicken, fish, salads and more, grilled to perfection. American style food and service. Kosher Jerusalem Rabbinate. 27 Emek Reim, German Colony. Tel: 02-566 6603.

THE PIE SHOP - TEA & PIE, DON'T PASS ME BY, kosher, sweet & savory pies, dairy menu, soups, salads, toasts, specialty drinks. Open 11:00 a.m.-12 midnight, 9 Yotz Solomn (back yard). Tel: 02-624 6712.

RESTAURANT MISHKENOT SHANAHIM - Superior French cuisine for lunch & dinner, 7 days a week. Outstanding wine cellar, elegant setting - spectacular view - private room. Located in Yehia Moshe (below the Guest House). Tel: 02-625 1042.

RIENZI - Candle light dining in an elegant decor. Fresh fish and home-made pasta. Kosher Linshachin - Dairy. Business lunch from NIS 39. 10 King David St. (Opp New Hilton Hotel). Open Sat. Niles. Tel: 02-622 2342.

WHERE TO STAY

ELIAT
RED MOUNTAIN HOTEL
 From NIS 130 per person per night incl. breakfast
 * Luxurious rooms
 * TV and video
 * Personal safes
 * Mini bar
 * Heated swimming pool
 * Exercise room
 For reservations: 07-6363222

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AVIS - We try harder
 Tel Aviv 03-527 1752
 Ben Gurion Airport 03-977 3200
 Jerusalem 02-624 9001
 USA 201-816-8157
 London 44-181-848-8733

WHERE TO RENT A CAR

CAL-AUTO
 For the Best Deal in Town - We offer you more
 Special season/weekend rates
 Phone
 Tel Aviv: 03-6391307
 Telefax: 03-5370511
 We will deliver the car to you

WHERE TO RENT A CAR

KLEIN CAR
 For the best & most reliable service
 * Special offers available
 * Delivery & Airport service
 Tel: 09-7408822, 09-7400383
 88 Ramatayim, Rod Hasharon

WHERE TO RENT A CAR

CASTLES
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Third up for grabs in local hoops

By ELI GRONER

Hapoel Holon and Maccabi Ra'anana square off in a battle for third place in tonight's featured National Basketball League contest. Holon is currently one game ahead of the Ra'anana, and a home win tonight would give the league's surprise team a comfortable two-game margin.

But a Ra'anana victory would give the visitors a season sweep and the all-important head-to-head tiebreaker.

Holon, which had hies the last two weeks because of an early State Cup competition elimination, is coming off a nice, fourth-place performance at an exhibition tournament in the Netherlands. Ra'anana, on the other hand, suffered a humiliating 34-point defeat at the hands of Hapoel Jerusalem last Sunday in the State Cup quarterfinals.

Another intriguing matchup takes place at the bottom of the standings when Maccabi Haifa hosts Hapoel Tel Aviv. Although the season has only reached its halfway point, Tel Aviv has its back against the wall, and it must catch Haifa if it wants to retain any hope of avoiding relegation.

A recent purge which left Hapoel without its best — if at times, unmotivated — player, Demetri Hill, is only the most recent in a series of embarrassing

moves for this sorry franchise. Team chairman Shaoul Eisenberg has threatened to withhold the player's salaries unless a stark improvement in play takes effect. In their most recent test (not counting Thursday night's loss to their clearly superior cross-town rivals, Maccabi), the Tel Avivians gave a strong second-leg performance in the State Cup quarterfinals against Hapoel Haifa, but it wasn't enough to advance to the semifinals. Hapoel Tel Aviv may lack talent, but motivation, for now, is definitely not a problem.

In other games tonight, Hapoel Eilat travels to Kfar Blum, Maccabi Tel Aviv hosts Bnei Herzliya (Channel 5, 20-45), Maccabi Rishon will look for an easy home win against Givat Shmuel, and Ramat Gan travels to Malha to take on Hapoel Jerusalem.

Orange Basketball League		
	W	L
Hapoel Jerusalem	10	1
Maccabi Tel Aviv	8	3
Hapoel Holon	7	4
Maccabi Haifa	6	5
Givat Shmuel	6	5
Hapoel Ramat Gan	5	6
Hapoel Eilat	5	6
Bnei Herzliya	5	6
Kfar Blum	5	6
Maccabi Rishon	5	6
Maccabi Tel Aviv	4	7
Givat Shmuel	3	8
Hapoel Tel Aviv	2	9

Ethiopians win cross country race

DURHAM (AP) — Ethiopia's new long-distance star Million Wolde outdistanced Kenya's Thomas Nyariki to win the 9-kilometer Great North Cross Country run at Durham yesterday.

The 19-year-old, who acted as pacemaker when countryman Haile Gebrselassie broke world record for 5,000 and 10,000 meters last year, raced away from the Kenyan to clock 27 minutes 02 seconds, winning the race by two seconds with Britain's Jon Brown third in 27:05.

Hull's OT blast extends Stars' streak



PHOENIX (AP) — Brett Hull scored 37 seconds into overtime as the Dallas Stars extended their unbeaten streak to 14 games with a 2-1 win over the Phoenix Coyotes on Friday.

Mike Modano also scored for the Stars, who are 11-0-3 since December 4.

Dallas, which opened an eight-point lead over Phoenix in the Pacific Division, is 7-0-2 in its last nine road games.

Deron Quint scored his first goal of the season with 32.6 seconds remaining in regulation to send the game into overtime.

But Hull took a pass from a stumbling Modano just in front of the crease and slipped the puck under Nikolai Khabibulin for the game-winning goal.

Burrines 3, Panthers 3
Keith Primeau scored with 17:44 remaining in regulation to help visiting Carolina tie.

Skating in alone on Panthers goalie Sean Burke, Primeau was taken down by Robert Svehla as he took a shot. Primeau collided with Burke and both players were sprawled on the ice as the puck trickled into the net for the tying goal.

Blues 6, Predators 5

Terry Yake scored with 44 seconds left, and Jamie McLennan was outstanding in relief of Grant Fuhr as St. Louis snapped a 10-game road winless streak.

Yake beat goalie Eric Fichaud from in front for his third goal of the year. McLennan picked up his seventh win, stopping 17 of 18 shots after Fuhr had given up four goals in the first 11 shots by the Predators.



FRIEND IN NEED — Anaheim defenseman Jamie Pushor (1) comes to the aid of falling teammate Travis Green (39) who skated into Sabres' center Curtis Brown in first-period action. The Mighty Ducks won in a rout, 7-2.

Carolina 11-10-3
First Period: 1-0, 15:58, Second Period: 2-0, 10:58, 15:58, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 24:00, 25:00, 26:00, 27:00, 28:00, 29:00, 30:00, 31:00, 32:00, 33:00, 34:00, 35:00, 36:00, 37:00, 38:00, 39:00, 40:00, 41:00, 42:00, 43:00, 44:00, 45:00, 46:00, 47:00, 48:00, 49:00, 50:00, 51:00, 52:00, 53:00, 54:00, 55:00, 56:00, 57:00, 58:00, 59:00, 60:00, 61:00, 62:00, 63:00, 64:00, 65:00, 66:00, 67:00, 68:00, 69:00, 70:00, 71:00, 72:00, 73:00, 74:00, 75:00, 76:00, 77:00, 78:00, 79:00, 80:00, 81:00, 82:00, 83:00, 84:00, 85:00, 86:00, 87:00, 88:00, 89:00, 90:00, 91:00, 92:00, 93:00, 94:00, 95:00, 96:00, 97:00, 98:00, 99:00, 100:00.

Washington 4-15-3
First Period: 1-0, 15:58, Second Period: 2-0, 10:58, 15:58, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 24:00, 25:00, 26:00, 27:00, 28:00, 29:00, 30:00, 31:00, 32:00, 33:00, 34:00, 35:00, 36:00, 37:00, 38:00, 39:00, 40:00, 41:00, 42:00, 43:00, 44:00, 45:00, 46:00, 47:00, 48:00, 49:00, 50:00, 51:00, 52:00, 53:00, 54:00, 55:00, 56:00, 57:00, 58:00, 59:00, 60:00, 61:00, 62:00, 63:00, 64:00, 65:00, 66:00, 67:00, 68:00, 69:00, 70:00, 71:00, 72:00, 73:00, 74:00, 75:00, 76:00, 77:00, 78:00, 79:00, 80:00, 81:00, 82:00, 83:00, 84:00, 85:00, 86:00, 87:00, 88:00, 89:00, 90:00, 91:00, 92:00, 93:00, 94:00, 95:00, 96:00, 97:00, 98:00, 99:00, 100:00.

First Period 1-0, 15:58, Second Period: 2-0, 10:58, 15:58, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00, 24:00, 25:00, 26:00, 27:00, 28:00, 29:00, 30:00, 31:00, 32:00, 33:00, 34:00, 35:00, 36:00, 37:00, 38:00, 39:00, 40:00, 41:00, 42:00, 43:00, 44:00, 45:00, 46:00, 47:00, 48:00, 49:00, 50:00, 51:00, 52:00, 53:00, 54:00, 55:00, 56:00, 57:00, 58:00, 59:00, 60:00, 61:00, 62:00, 63:00, 64:00, 65:00, 66:00, 67:00, 68:00, 69:00, 70:00, 71:00, 72:00, 73:00, 74:00, 75:00, 76:00, 77:00, 78:00, 79:00, 80:00, 81:00, 82:00, 83:00, 84:00, 85:00, 86:00, 87:00, 88:00, 89:00, 90:00, 91:00, 92:00, 93:00, 94:00, 95:00, 96:00, 97:00, 98:00, 99:00, 100:00.

Mighty Ducks 7, Sabres 2
Dominik Hasek had one of the worst days of his career, giving up three goals to Teemu Selanne as Anaheim won on the road.

Selanne also had two assists, and Steve Rucchin added two goals for Anaheim. Mikko Salo scored twice for Buffalo.

Senators 4, Capitals 3

Marian Hossa and Alexei Yashin scored 1:18 apart midway through the third period as Ottawa rallied for a road win.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Western Conference

Central Division

Northeast Division

Southwest Division

Pacific Division

Thursday's results: Toronto 4, Detroit 2; Montreal 2, Calgary 1; Chicago 1, N.Y. Islanders 0; Dallas 4, Boston 1; Philadelphia 6, Vancouver 2; N.Y. Rangers 4, Colorado 3.

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Aberdeen 1.

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Civil Service 0, Albion Rovers 3;
Dalmacastle 1, East Stirling 2; Forfar 2, East
Fife 1; Humber 3, Peebleshead 0; Inverness 1,
Jungstons 2; Keith 0, Brechin 0; Montrose 0,
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No. 9 Wisconsin 38
No. 6 UCLA 31

Ron Dayne ran for 246 yards and a record-tying four touchdowns as Wisconsin beat UCLA. Dayne, showing power up the middle and speed in the open field, rushed 27 times and scored on

In a game that had 1,035 yards of offense, Cade McNown passed for 340 yards and two touchdowns in his final game for the Bruins, but threw a costly interception that allowed the Badgers to open a 10-point lead early in the final quarter.

No. 25 Mississippi St. 11
Major Applewhite threw three touchdown passes and the 20th-ranked University of Texas Longhorns rolled to a victory in Dallas.

Texas running back Ricky Williams, who in November won the Heisman Trophy as American college football's best player this

The Mississippi State Bulldogs rebounded Williams' every step, but they were forced to pay for their blitzes by Applewhite, who completed two touchdown passes in the first half for a 14-3 lead.

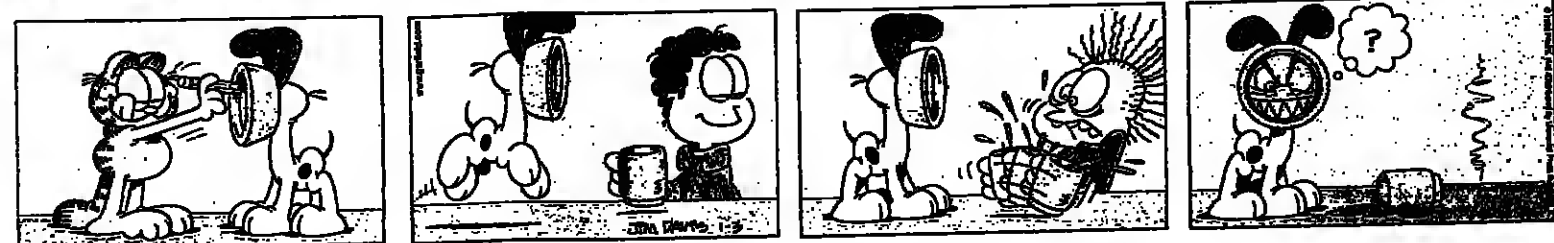
Cotton Bowl
Texas 38, Mississippi State 11
Gator Bowl
Georgia Tech 35, Notre Dame 28
Citrus Bowl
Michigan 45, Arkansas 31
Outback Bowl
Penn State 28, Kentucky 14

LAST NIGHT
Orange Bowl
Syracuse [8-3] vs. Florida [9-2]

TOMORROW

Fiesta Bowl
Tennessee (12-0) vs. Florida State (11-1)

GARFIELD



DILBERT



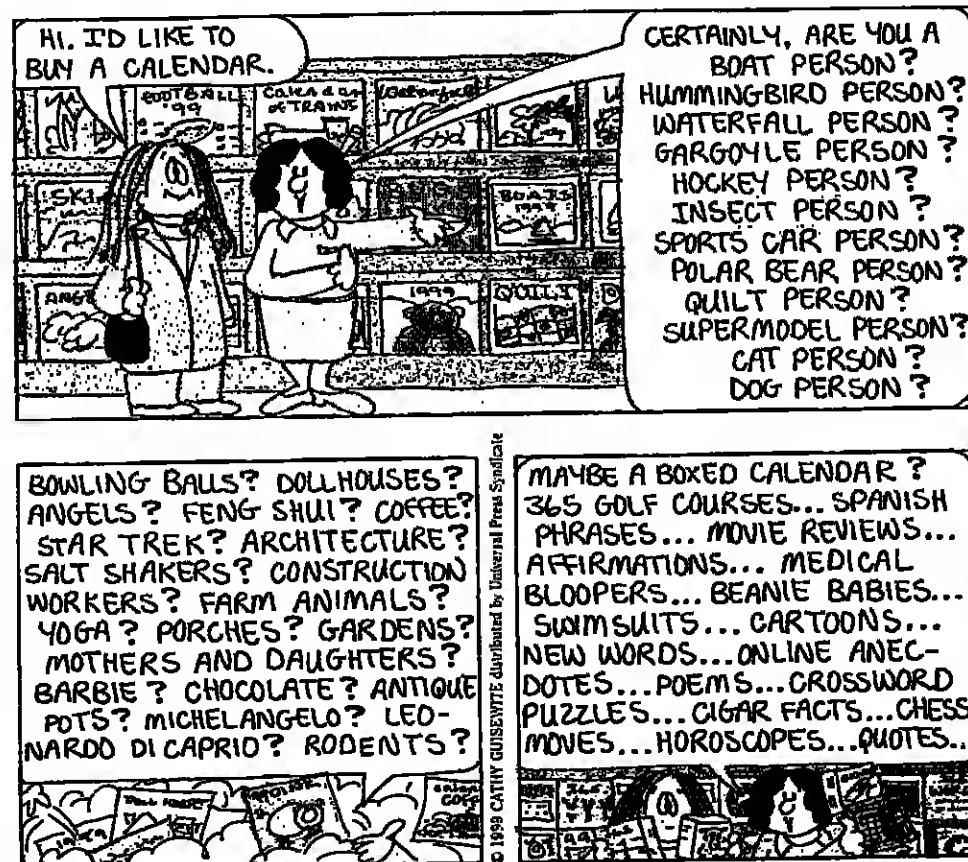
PEANUTS

by SCHULZ



BY CATHY GUISEWITE

CATHY



Calvin and Hobbes

WILSON



Inside

Gough's hat-trick

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NHL roundup

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Countdown to NBA doomsday

NEW YORK (AP) — Union director Billy Hunter traveled back from Philadelphia yesterday, and NBA commissioner David Stern is due back from Aspen today to begin one of the most pivotal weeks in the league's history. The league has set Thursday as the deadline for reaching a new collective bargaining agreement that will save the season, yet no new negotiating sessions have been scheduled.

The union says it has another offer for the owners, but will not present it until the league agrees to a meeting. The league says no meeting is necessary since it already has made its final offer. "I have no plans to see David," Hunter said yesterday. "When I get back I'll decide with my staff what to do."

Stern wants the players to vote on his final offer, but the union is resisting despite the pleadings of some players. The union's 19-man negotiating committee is the only body authorized to present a proposal.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that at least 20 players have approached former union head and current NBC Sports analyst Isiah Thomas and asked him to step into the process if plans for a player vote on the owners' offer are not in place by tomorrow night.

Rushden hold mighty Leeds

Non-leaguers earn FA Cup replay with 0-0 draw; Portsmouth upset Forest

LONDON (AP) — American goalkeeper Ian Feuer helped non-league Rushden and Diamonds hold Leeds to a 0-0 draw in the FA Cup yesterday.

The New England Revolution goalkeeper, making his debut while on a temporary contract, superbly kept out a low shot from Leeds' Australian striker Harry Kewell midway through the second half as the team from the Conference League forced a lucrative replay with the high-flying Premier League club.

The only upset on a day when several looked likely, was at Nottingham Forest who lost 1-0 at home to struggling Division One Portsmouth.

Without suspended Dutch striker Pierre van Hooijdonk, Forest failed to win for the 19th game in

Results, standings, Page 13



SLOWDOWN — Rushden and Diamonds' striker Miquel De Souza (c) is tackled by Leeds United's captain David Hopkin (r) at Nene Park.

four minutes later. But goals by Gary Speed and Alan Shearer for short-handed Newcastle earned a victory for Roud Gullit's team.

Elsewhere it more or less went according to plan.

Stan Collymore scored twice and set up another for Julian Joachim as the Premier League's top club, Aston Villa, outclassed Hull, last in division three, on a 3-

0 scoreline at Villa Park.

Tottenham fell behind after only 40 seconds to Graham Taylor's division two Watford at White Hart Lane but hit back to win 5-2.

Player-manager Gianluca Vialli scored two late goals as Chelsea won 2-0 at division two Oldham, Ibrahim Bakayoko hit two in the final three minutes for Everton on a 2-0 win at Bristol City and Coventry overwhelmed Division

Two Macclesfield 7-0 helped by three goals by Darren Huckerby.

Wimbledon edged division three Manchester City 1-0 but ended up with nine men on the field after the expulsions of goalscorer Carl Cort and Jason Euell.

Leicester overpowered division one Birmingham 4-2 and Derby scored a 3-0 win at Division Three Plymouth at Home Park. In a matchup of two Premier

League clubs, Blackburn downed Charlton 2-0 with goals by Kevin Davies and Jason Wilcox.

Another Premier League confrontation takes place today when Manchester United take on Middlesbrough at Old Trafford.

Liverpool goes to Port Vale and Sheffield Wednesday host Norwich. Tomorrow, defending titlist Arsenal go to Division Two Preston.

Sampras out of Aussie Open

PERTH (AP) — Pete Sampras withdrew from the Australian Open tennis championships yesterday, telling tournament organizers he was mentally and physically fatigued.

The 27-year-old American played seven tournaments in Europe during October and November in a successful bid to hold on to his top ranking. But his effort to finish the year as the No. 1 player a record six straight times took its toll.

"He obviously had a very long end of the year and he's pretty worn out and needs to take a rest," said Tournament director Paul McNamee.

The withdrawal means Sampras misses the opportunity at the Australian Open to equal Roy Emerson's record of 12 Grand Slam singles victories.

Sampras won the Australian Open in 1994 and 1997.

The Australian Open, which begins on January 18 and runs until January 31, still features the remainder of the top 20 men and 19 of the top 20 women.

Korda defends title, rep.

Petr Korda defends both his title and a reputation brought into question by a drugs controversy when the Qatar Open tennis tournament starts tomorrow.

The tournament will provide the first occasion on which Korda has had to face a full news conference since last month's announcement he had been fined and docked computer points for testing positive for steroids at Wimbledon in July.

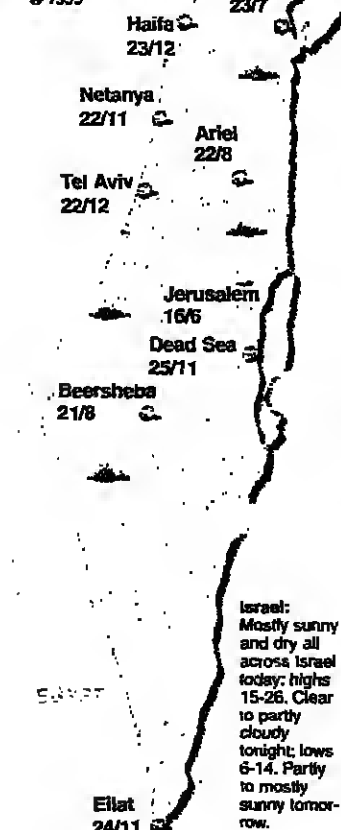
That revelation caused a surprise because it involved a player with such an impeccable image and of the leniency of the punishment. Korda's explanation is that he was completely ignorant of how a banned substance appeared in his system was unexpectedly accepted at face value.

EL VALTE

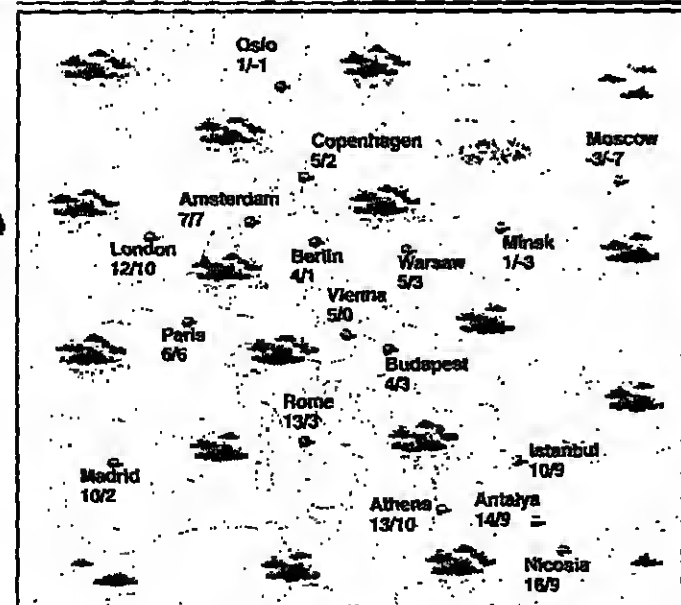
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THE WEATHER

ISRAEL
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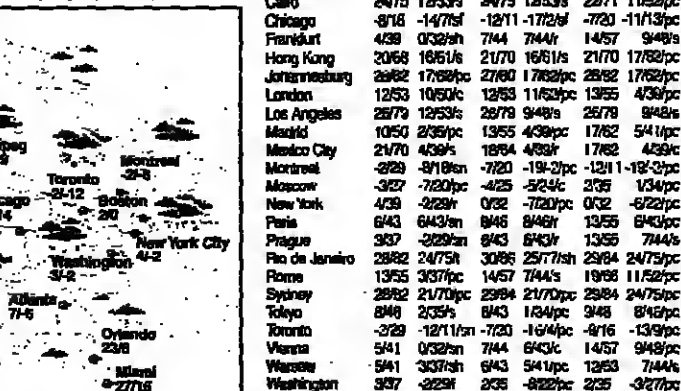
EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Jerusalem	22/11	23/11	24/11	25/11
Tel Aviv	22/11	23/11	24/11	25/11
Haifa	22/11	23/11	24/11	25/11
Beersheva	22/11	23/11	24/11	25/11
Eilat	22/11	23/11	24/11	25/11

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



LOSING IT — Buffalo Bills QB Doug Flutie holds on to Dolphins' Zach Thomas (54) after Flutie fumbled the ball in third-quarter action.

Flutie's fumble gives Dolphins win

MIAMI (AP) — In a game full of wild plays and crazy bounces, the last one surprisingly did not go Doug Flutie's way.

The Miami Dolphins dug in at their 5-yard line to survive a frantic comeback by Flutie and the Buffalo Bills for a 24-17 victory in yesterday's AFC wild-card playoff game. With 17 seconds to go, Trace Armstrong sacked Flutie with a jarring tackle that shook the ball loose, and Miami's Shane Burton recovered.

The Bills, who trailed 24-14, got a 33-yard field goal by Steve Christie with 1:33 left, then recovered an onside kick and drove 64

yards in 10 plays. Flutie, on first down, pumped to throw once and then cocked his arm again, but was leveled by Armstrong, knocking the ball loose.

Cow coach Jimmy Johnson won in the postseason for the first time since his Dallas Cowboys beat the Bills in the 1994 Super Bowl. The Dolphins earned their first playoff victory in four years and beat a team that ended their season three times in this decade.

Miami's opponent next weekend will depend on today's Jacksonville-New England game. If the Jaguars win, the Dolphins will play at Denver. If the Patriots win, the Dolphins will play the Jets in New York.

The Bills came from behind twice, but couldn't overcome five turnovers and 93 yards in penal-

ties. Eric Moulds' nine receptions for 240 yards — an NFL playoff record — weren't enough, either.

Weird plays and plot twists dominated the game, beginning with a 65-yard pass to Moulds on the first play that Moulds then fumbled. But perhaps the deciding factor was a workmanlike effort by the Miami offense, which sputtered for much of the season.

Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 95 yards and the Dolphins controlled the ball for 37 minutes.

thanks to scoring marches of 57, 66, 77 and 50 yards. Each drive took at least eight plays.

Flutie, playing in his first NFL playoff game in 12 years, went 21-for-36 for 360 yards and a touchdown. But, ahead 7-6, he threw an interception at the goal line late in the first half.

Wild Cards

Yesterday
Miami 24, Bills 17
Arizona at Dallas
Today
New England at Jacksonville
Green Bay at San Francisco

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, January 9
Dallas, Green Bay or San Francisco at Atlanta
Sunday, January 10
Buffalo, Miami or New England at Denver
Jacksonville or Miami at New York Jets
Arizona, Green Bay or San Francisco at Minnesota

The curtain rises on a culture-packed London theatre week (Jan. 1-10) incl. flights, 2 nights hotel accommodation, and a theatre ticket to a top London show from a wide selection.